

## Assignments

Week 2, beginning 1/23/2006:

What we did and will do:

**Tuesday:** I responded to your responses to reading and writing. You did a great job, and I went on and on in praise because I liked them so.

We continued our discussion of Neil Postman's "Ring Around the Collar," and I introduced the narrative field characterized by the plot checkmark story structure. We related this to Postman's analysis of TV advertisements and saw that it can be applied in many areas, even shopping.

We briefly discussed Strunk & White's grammatical points 1 & 2.

**Thursday:** We'll discuss the advertisements you found and your responses, some of which you'll read aloud, and I'll collect them. We'll begin discussing your *Arlington* readings, pages 31 through 58, by Didion, Wolfe, Welty & Tam on keeping a journal, the new journalism, listening and language. We'll also begin discussing potential topics for your first paper due on Tuesday, February 7.

### To Do For Next Week:

**Writing:** Tom Wolfe states that the new journalists of the 60s applied techniques previously used by realistic novelists: scene-by-scene construction; realistic dialogue; third-person point of view (POV); and details that reflect status life. I would add to this list the narrative plot structure that we discussed in class. Pick some activity in your life that engages you and begin creating lists of important details that relate to the five categories above. Bring your lists to class on Tuesday and be thinking of the main idea for your 2-3 page paper on "seeing" and "listening" in a new way.

This writing assignment can also get you started on your journal. As you use your senses to carefully observe your world, record the facts and fiction that you "see" and "hear." **To see how you're doing, I'll collect your journals on Tuesday, February 14.**

**Reading:** If you haven't already, read in *Arlington* pages 31 through 58, Didion, Wolfe, Welty & Tam on keeping a journal, seeing, listening and language, and pages 94 through 102, tips on writing.

Similarly, read Strunk & White pages 1 through 5 if you haven't already.

