

Purpose**Purpose:**

To use the classical argumentation model to explore ethics, decision making, and entertainment.

For the past few weeks we have been looking at Clancy Martin's Moral Decision Making for the express purpose of isolating major ethical stances. For this assignment we will be using those ethical stances to examine entertainment and viewing we have done in class.

In addition, we will be exploring the concept of para-social relationships and their role in our viewing.

Assignment:

Read the two definitions below:

Para Social Relationship:

“One-sided relationship, where one person extends emotional energy, interest and time, and the other party, the persona, is completely unaware of the other person’s existence.”

Catharsis:

“The process of releasing, and thereby providing relief from, strong or repressed emotions.”

Using these definitions in connections with our classroom readings, write an argumentative paper that answer one of the two following questions:

If you ARE a fan of the show Friends:

Given your ethical point of view, would you consider yourself in alignment with the values of the television show Friends, and how does your relationship with the show relate to the two definitions above?

Ethics in Viewing, Continued

If you are NOT a fan of the show Friends:

Given your ethical point of view, how do you see the para-social and cathartic elements evident in the show Friends? What agreements do the fans of this show have to make in order to align themselves with the shows' values?

Focus:

1. Major Claim

- a. Need to clearly identify the problem and solution
- b. Need to interact with both sides of the argument

2. Use terms from class:

- a. Philosophers – identify, cite, and connect philosophies to characters and situations in the show
- b. Specifically identify your ethical position early in the paper (Narration)

3. Use citations

a. Formal - Author, Context, Quotation, Parenthesis

- According to Clancy Martin, in his article Is It Okay to Lie, when a person lies, they “halt the community’s ability to cope with life because there is a lack of trust.” (16).

b. Paraphrase – Summary of large information, Parenthesis

- Clancy Martin argues that when a person lies the community suffers (Lie, 16-18)

c. Embedded – Analysis using important citations

- Clancy Martin argues “life cannot happen” if nobody protects their integrity (Lie, 16)

4. Integrate Classical Argumentation:

- a. Introduction – Minding the Gap Introduction related to values and entertainment
- b. Narration – You, Friends, Relevant Philosophers
- c. Thesis – Major Claim
- d. Concession – What your opponents would say (using terms from class)
- e. Rebuttal – Who you respond (using terms from class)
- f. Conclusion – Why is it important to examine values in entertainment (use terms from class)