Microtheme 3: Analysis of a Film Scene

Description: 500 words, plus MLA-format Works Cited page
Source: One film scene from *Do the Right Thing* or *Gran Torino*
Total Points: 50
Due Date: **Wed 2/29**

The Assignment

Select a film scene that is representative of an issue or concern in the films. Critique that film scene to arrive at a specific, non-obvious claim about the argument made by the filmic elements of the scene.

Strategies

Prepare to analyze the film scene by watching it repeatedly and applying some of the skills from WA you've learned, such as Notice and Focus, "The Method," and 10 on 1. Practice using the film analysis tools we have covered in class, too.

Begin your microtheme by summarizing the scene strategically and concretely for a reader who cannot see it. (Note that your summary should prepare the audience for your analysis, not replace your analysis.)

Next, guide your audience into the heart of your microtheme by analyzing one or two key elements of the film scene. Use "10 on 1" to make your analysis detailed and specific in order to speculate about the significance of the one or two key elements in the scene. As you do this, clarify the relationships among the formal elements of the scene and explain how they relate to each other.

Once your detail-driven analysis is in place, offer a claim about the argument made by the scene (its "pitch"). Your claim should be supported by the analysis that has come before it, and should be both specific and non-obvious. Aim to say something interesting which has a solid basis in observation and interpretation (analysis!).

Criteria for Evaluation

1. Does the microtheme analyze specific evidence and say more about less using "10 on 1"?
2. Does the microtheme present a specific, non-obvious claim about the film scene that is based on the author's analysis?
3. Does the summary of the film scene prepare the audience for the analysis while avoiding taking the place of analysis?
4. Does the microtheme adhere to the standards of academic writing, including MLA citation?