TOPIC 3
(Red, X, Y, Z and Blue)

RED TOPIC

Frontline’s “The Merchants of Cool,” which can be found on the Public Broadcasting System’s web site at www.pbs.org, presents a number of arguments on the creation and marketing of “youth culture” in the United States.

Discuss events in your own life that would support or validate the arguments made in “Merchants.” (You may focus on a single argument or deal with as many as three.)

Your thesis should look something like this: “Based upon my own experiences, I would agree with several of the arguments presented by the producers of The Merchants of Cool.”

You will have to analyze the arguments presented in the program. (Your analysis should be based on what you believe is Merchant’s primary thesis and the arguments and evidence that the producers present to support that thesis.) Then you should select those arguments that you feel your own personal experiences would best support or validate.

TOPIC X

Frontline’s “The Merchants of Cool,” which can be found on the Public Broadcasting System’s web site at www.pbs.org, presents a number of arguments on the creation and marketing of “youth culture” in the United States.

Discuss the three ideas from “Merchants” that you found to be the most interesting or informative.

Your thesis should look like this: “The three ideas that I found to be the most interesting or informative in Merchants are A, B and C.”
You are not trying to explain what the producers believed to be the most important ideas. Instead, your arguments will focus on your own choices and the reasons underlying your selections.

Remember that information is what is left over in a message after you have subtracted what you already know. So the points you select should not be those you were already aware of.

**TOPIC Y**

Frontline’s “The Merchants of Cool,” which can be found on the Public Broadcasting System’s web site at www.pbs.org, presents a number of arguments on the creation and marketing of “youth culture” in the United States.

Discuss whether or not you believe *Merchants* presents a “good” argument based upon your composition text or our course models.

**TOPIC Z**

What do you believe is the primary theme of “Josie and the Pussycats?” (You may substitute “Bamboozled” for “Josie.”)

You should look at the director’s commentary on the DVD version of the film you select, but your primary arguments should be based upon the film. Remember that a thesis is the idea that is supported by all of the other arguments in a film.

**BLUE**

Frontline’s “The Merchants of Cool,” which can be found on the Public Broadcasting System’s web site at www.pbs.org, presents a number of arguments on the creation and marketing of “youth culture” in the United States.

What do you believe the producers of “Merchants” would say about “Josie and the Pussycats?” (You may substitute “Bamboozled” for “Josie.”) In other words, do you think they would approve or disapprove of the film or give it a mixed rating?
ALL PREVIOUS PAPER GUIDELINES HOLD.