

First Draft Due: Thursday, March 21st
Final Draft Due: Thursday, March 28th

CSUF English 101 – Essay #2
Whose Text is it Anyway?

As you are (hopefully) aware of by now, we are working with untraditional texts in this class. While most novels progress in a linear, cohesive, and logical fashion, Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* does not. Carroll intentionally manipulates language, setting, and meaning, which generally causes confusion – not only for Alice, but for readers as well. Despite (or perhaps because of) its seemingly illogical and confusing nature, it has been an extremely influential text over the course of several generations. His works have been appropriated by an uncountable number of producers, artists, videogame designers, directors, authors, musicians, etc. Even if a person has never read Carroll's texts and has never seen the popular Disney cartoon, he or she is still familiar with the concept of "Alice in Wonderland." The question then remains: How much should audience understanding and expectations affect an author or artist's creative choices?

For this essay, **write a 4-6 page paper that discusses and argues whether the authors'/artists' responsibility belongs to their audience or to their work. That is, is it valuable, or even acceptable, for an artist to place more importance on their art than on audience understanding?** Be sure to use concrete language and specific examples and details to support your argument. (The examples that you use to support your argument can be from the texts we've read in class and/or from other artists/authors.)

As you brainstorm and draft for this essay, consider:

- How much creative license was taken by the artist/author/creator?
- What is the overall purpose of the text?
- What is the tone? How does the author/artist seek to establish this tone? Why?
- Who do you think is the targeted audience? What about the text leads you to this conclusion?
- How do you think the expectations of the audience factor into the author/artist's process of creation?
- How might these choices be a result of the medium of the representation? (For example, if it is a book, a song, a painting, or a music video, etc. how might that factor into the artist/author/creator's decisions?)