

Paper Two: Comparing Cover Songs

From Joseph Harris' *Rewriting: How to Do Things with Texts*:

To transform is to reshape, not to replace or rebut. The original does not go away but is remade into something new. . . .

Find two different recordings of the same song and listen to both carefully in order to consider how the *meaning* (and not just the feel or the style) of the cover version might be said to differ from that of the original.

To do so, you'll need first to make a specific list of the differences between the two versions in terms of lyrics, instrumentation, pace and rhythm, vocal emphasis, and the like. But then, and more important, you'll need to look for *patterns* in the changes between the cover and the original, so that you can then speculate on the perspective that lies beneath them. (73-74)

This is not a simple "compare and contrast" assignment like you may have seen in prior classes. In this **400 to 600 word** paper, I don't want you to simply list the similarities and differences between the two songs you choose: as Harris says, you need to find "*patterns*" in the differences you find. What kind of viewpoint does the original song represent? How is the perspective presented in the cover version different?

We will be conducting an in-class peer review workshop to revise your work in progress. You will need to bring a substantial first draft (at least one full page) to class on workshop day and collect at least three peer responses to your draft on your Response Chart.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY:

If you make an appointment with a Writing Tutor at the Writing Center on the RCC City Campus and complete a Revision Agenda, you may turn it in with your Final Draft for 5 points extra credit on this paper.

DUE DATES:	
Wednesday, September 24th	Rough Draft DUE (Bring 3 copies to class for workshop.)
Monday, September 29th	Final Draft DUE (Final Draft + Response Chart + Optional Revision Agenda)