

Reading response assignment #3

In order to get full credit for this assignment, you must complete both parts.

Part 1 – due Monday, October 9 by 8:50 AM

It is natural to think that (i) an important goal of art is for artists to distinguish themselves stylistically and (ii) the expression of artistic style requires artistic freedom within a given medium. If that is right, then it seems that filmmakers seeking to express unique styles should strive for artistic freedom within the medium of film.

Given such a view, should we think that limitations or restrictions within the medium of film *inhibit* the freedom of filmmakers to express themselves stylistically, or do they instead *enhance* that freedom? Correspondingly, when seeking to create art and distinguish themselves stylistically, should filmmakers *impose* limitations or restrictions upon their approach, or should they seek to *minimize* such limitations or restrictions? How does *The Five Obstructions* support (or conflict with) your view? (What about the third obstruction - that Jørgen Leth must remake his film in any way he chooses?)

In critically exploring these questions, you should be careful to:

- Clearly state your thesis before developing it in detail
- Explain what you take a *restriction* or *limitation* to be (using examples from *The Five Obstructions* to illustrate your interpretation of the general concept)
- Provide specific reasons in support of your thesis

Your response should be **500-700 words**. Please post your response as a new topic to the “Discussion” forum from the left-hand menu.

If you need to refresh your memory on the documentary, it is available through the UT Kanopy streaming service: <https://utexas.kanopystreaming.com/frontpage>

Part 2 – due Wednesday, October 11 by 8:50 AM

Comment on another student's submission. You should start by indicating something you liked about the submission. The rest is up to you - ask a clarificatory question, raise an objection, expand upon a point that you liked, etc.

Your comment should be at least a paragraph in length and must be considerate and respectful. For your initial comment, please choose a submission that has not already received any comments. However, students are encouraged to leave additional comments on submissions they've read and to engage each other in discussion.