

MacQuarrie

English 310

10/31/2003

In-class Essay 6

Review of *Bowling for Columbine*

For the Antelope Valley essay, as you will remember, you wrote an in-class essay first and then used that in-class essay as material in writing a longer, more detailed and inclusive take-home essay. For this assignment we will be doing just the reverse. While most in-class or timed essays at the university level and for credentialing will be improvisational and will be designed to test your writing and critical thinking abilities, some in-class writing is requires that you write in detail about a subject you already have special knowledge about or expertise in. These type of assignments can be prepared for before you sit the exam. In fact, it is best to either use sample questions or to take an educated guess at possible questions that the examiner might use, and then pre-write thesis statements, outlines, and even complete essays on those topics. In the end though, you need to be able to be able to write the essays from scratch in the exam.

For this essay you will be writing an in-class review of *Bowling for Columbine* and you are welcome to use arguments and material from the take-home paper you just handed in to me, but you can not use notes or refer to your take-home essay. You may reconstruct your arguments, or you may develop new ones.

As in the take-home essay, you must not only tell us whether the movie is good or not, and why or why not, but you will need to focus on Moore's use of rhetoric. He admits to using rhetoric in order to make his point stronger, and he plays fast and loose with the "truth" sometimes in order to do so. What are Moore's most important arguments? What sort of fallacies might he be guilty of? What rhetorical or argumentative devices does he use to convince the audience that he is right?

Do you know of any critics who agree or disagree with your reading of the movie?

600-750 words. Double spaced