

Abstract for ARC

The field of literature is sometimes viewed as a fairly narrow field deemed uninteresting, confusing, and inconsequential to some people. When observed from a strictly literary perspective, a piece of literature, in this case, "Videotape" by Don DeLillo, may appear dull and lifeless as readers find themselves entrenched in the work suffering a merciless attack from a squadron of unyielding literary devices. "Videotape," a short story in which an inanimate tape of a serial highway shooting becomes humanized, speaks volumes about how technology affects society. The story begins by actually presenting the content of the video in a nonchalant manner. The plot escalates when readers realize a young child is responsible for the gruesome footage, and the horror continues when DeLillo reveals the viewer's obsession with the tape. The videotape becomes a character as it manipulates the entire plot revealing deep and frightening insight into character motivation. While reading this piece, I became fascinated with character behavior and why the viewer was so captivated by tape. I began to see how DeLillo slowly turned the videotape in the main character of the story, but the plot doesn't end there. DeLillo drags readers into the murder by forcing them to take part in the story. Through my research, I discovered how science applies to the story as I created a new, transdisciplinary scope combining scientific and psychological principles with long-standing literary devices to bring new life and perspective to this literary piece. Through use of the principle of Schadenfreude and the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle, Don DeLillo's "Videotape" allows readers to combine disciplines which results in a better understanding of character motivation creating deeper meaning for the story. Schadenfreude opens up a window into the mind of the viewer explaining why he is unable to look away from the horrific video, and the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle presents an analogy for how DeLillo draws readers into the story. The implications for

transdisciplinary research are incredible. By merging what have previously been seen as singular disciplines into one large group, new connections and ideas are found which may have been overlooked in the past. Old literature becomes new and significance grows with each layer of new insight. This new method of viewing literature is not only more appealing to scientific minds, but it also requires critical analysis and abstract thought. Researchers employing this type of thinking develop critical reasoning skills resulting in a massive increase in breadth of knowledge.