**Reader Response Four**

**Playing with Panels OR Reading the Media**

**Option One**

The structure of *The Dark Knight Returns* relies on a 16 panel grid, 4 panels by 4 panels, though this is only a loose organizational system. The panels are regularly resized to fit the needs of the story, and often the connection between any two panels is extremely slim. Your job is to find a pairing or a short sequence of panels that, in either their size or relation to each other, communicate something valuable about the book’s themes or messages—*OTHER than PLOT*.

You should ask yourself what is being connected between the panels you choose, and why this connection is important to understand. You may have to rely on analysis of the artwork as well, though this should be in support of your claim about what these specific panels are doing to contribute to the book. Remember to think beyond the simple information it conveys directly and think about what the act of conveying this information *means* about the book as a whole.

**Option Two**

Throughout *The Dark Knight Returns*, television screen panels and commentary can be found with regularity, commenting on the action of the story and providing new directions for readers to take the book. These include interviews, editorials, and clips from across the media landscape—so your job is to find a single moment from these ‘news’ panels that indicates some of the important questions that the book is interested in.

You should take the time to consider who is making the statement (as best you can—sometimes there’s not much information) and whether or not the book seems to be treating them with respect or is perhaps in some way mocking them. You might have to provide a quick analysis of the art to help demonstrate your point, using details to back up your interpretation, and should take the time to consider how these moments in the text are making commentary about the Batman and how we should understand him—as well as why you think this is important to reading the book.

**Requirements**

Typed, Double-Spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman

250-500 Words

Due on ICON, 9:30 AM, Monday, October 19th

**Grading**

Just doing what I ask you above will get you a nice average grade, so long as the grammar does not get in the way of understanding your ideas. Good insight and clear explanation will be the criteria for better-than-average grades, including a demonstration of carefully constructed analysis and specific examples that actually support your points. Anything less than the required materials above will get a below-average grade.