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Criticali-Zine

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Martin Gallagher

he/him

**Bachelor of Game Design
2022**

Martin is an illustrator and game designer with over five years of professional knowledge and experience in the industry. He is passionate about challenging his audiences with what he creates. Whether that be a level in a video game or an illustration. Critical theory is something that inspires him to look at all angles of a project, as a creator and a viewer, to create a totally unique experience. His hope is to bring life into everything he creates.



Robyn Miller

she/her

**Bachelor of Creative Writing &
Publishing 2021**

Robyn is a freelance writer and author with four years of experience in publishing, editing, and fiction writing.

She has had works of fiction featured in TheMinola Review and Pastel Pastoral Literary Magazine, as well as blogs published on Sheridan's Creative Humanities website. She is passionate about critical theory and uses it in every opportunity to add philosophical elements to her work.



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your own bias'
and think
independently*



ART IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER



AN INTERVIEW WITH STANLEY FISH

Stanley Fish is an American literary theorist, professor, and author, whose voice has been contributing to critical theory since the 60s. He has published works in on the subject as recently as 2019, with his book *The First* touching on the political tensions around the first amendment and the Trump Administration. We were thrilled at the opportunity to sit with him, and get his insight on how critical theory connects to modern discourse. Here is a taste of how that conversation went with him.

We are trying to spark the critical minds of our colleagues and classmates. How would you introduce a young person to your work, and to critical theory?

SF: Well, the best way always to introduce new subject through by way of experiences that your target audiences might already have. So you might begin by asking people whether they have had something like the following experience: For a long time they have gone along with a set of routines, and also, more or less, unconsciously affirmed the assumptions underlying those routines.

Then something happens. There's a break in the routine, an event in the world, something happens and suddenly everything is seen in a new light. And then you realize that the basic structure of that previous experience was not really basic.

There was something underneath that structure that was in fact, determining it to a certain extent. Suddenly the routine that you unthinkingly preformed seems less stable and certain in their operation, that they had the flaw. You find yourself in the both energizing and distressing position of having to reconfigure your entire mental landscape. At least in the respect to a particular area of experience.

If you can find such a moment in the lives of the people you are talking to, then you can extend that moment, to the point where you introduce scholars and thinkers and philosophers, who are suggesting a wholesale revamping of our routines and assumptions, to the extent that not only a small parts of our experience, but all of our experience takes on a different aspect.



This can be exhilarating and also uncomfortable. George Bernard Shaw, the English playwright and essayist once said, "Wherever you learn something it feels at first that you've lost something". This is a great quote, That's not an exact quote though but it's almost exact. When a new way of looking at things suddenly erupts for you and impresses itself on you, one of your experiences will be the loss of the confidence that you had just moving around in the world, for this insight to go with you.

As you were speaking, I was thinking of how this is the best time to introduce this kind of thinking to our colleagues, our classmates, because of the global shift in our landscape that we've all been experiencing with this pandemic I think there's a definite uncomfortableness, shaking of structure that's let a lot of people feeling like they've lost something, and that there's something more to be looked at in our structures in the things that make up the world around us.

SF: Yes I think that's the case.



To listen to more insights from this interview, use the QR link above





HOROSCOPES FOR THE CRITICAL THEORIST

Aries - Stanley Fish
March 21 - April 19



Today you will find a challenge in everything, Aries. But it's nothing you can't handle. Your vision & unique perspective has an influence in everything you read, watch, and listen to. That influence is what makes you such a strong leader and an active problem solver.

"The idea - the core idea of humanism - is that the act of reading about great deeds will lead you to imitate them."

Stanley Fish, *How to Write a Sentence and How to Read One*

Cancer - Jean-Paul Sartre
June 21 - July 22



The world has become pretty absurd, hasn't it, Cancer? You are probably finding that your routine could use some refreshing, or even a complete overhaul. Take a chance on something today. Even though you are a small speck in a strange universe, your happiness has value.

"I can always choose, but I ought to know that if I do not choose, I am still choosing."

Jean-Paul Sartre, *The Philosophy of Existentialism: Selected Essays*

Libra - Bell Hooks
September 23 - October 22



Your diplomacy and charisma will work in your favour today, Libra. Despite pressure from those around you, you will remain cool and calm as always. Focus on your language today. You will find that you can make you point much clearer with fewer words than with more.

"What we cannot imagine cannot come into being."

Bell Hooks, *Teaching Critical Theory: Practical Wisdom*

Capricorn - Simone De Beauvoir
December 22 - January 19



Capricorn, free yourself from your plans and your responsibilities (I know you have a lot of them). Face the day without constraints, and it will lead you to new possibilities. Even if they do not listen, someone who appreciates you is hanging on your every word.

"A freedom which is interested only in denying freedom, must be denied."

Simone De Beauvoir, *Ethics of Ambiguity*

Taurus - Karl Marx
April 20 - May 20



Despite everything, (and I mean everything), you will manage to remain steadfast and forward thinking, Taurus. You see your enemies for who they are: whoever tries to rob you of your worth and individuality. You are not a simple cog in the machine, but a brilliant star!

"Workers of the world unite; you have nothing to lose but your chains."

Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*

Leo - Mari Matsuda
July 23 - August 22



You are not taking any BS today, proud lion! There are people around you that that want to talk you down with their version of the truth, without realizing that you wrote the book their quoting. Never let anyone convince you that they know more about your experience!

"I intend to feel and to work within the first amendment tensions armed with stories from human lives."

Mari Matsuda, *Words that Wound*

Scorpio - Derrick Bell
October 23 - November 22



Scorpio, you are on fire today. Those who love to belittle, condescend, and manipulate better steer clear of you, because you'll call them out on every word of it. Trust your instincts, because they'll warn you about a person's intentions long before a conversation even starts.

"All ethical people strive to choose "right" over "easy" when confronted by situations that force them to choose one or the other."

Derrick Bell, *Ethical Ambition*

Aquarius - Virginia Woolf
January 20 - February 18



A big change is on your horizon, Aquarius. You might find yourself in a new landscape or space of your own, with countless decisions to make. If you find yourself boxed in, know it is not any fault of yours, and you have the talent to overcome any boundaries.

"Be truthful, and the result is bound to be amazingly interesting."

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own*

Gemini - Dr. Cornel West
May 21 - June 20



Your voice holds power, Gemini. The weight of everything may seem heavy today, but remember to log off, wind down, and spread love to those closest to you. It won't save the world, but your smile makes a difference to those around you.

When someone you love needs guidance, take the time to encourage them into the right direction.

"We are who we are because somebody loved us."
Dr. Cornel West, *Brother West: Living and Loving Out Loud, A Memoir*

Virgo - Dr. Ailene Moreton Robinson
August 23 - September 22



Virgo, look to who you surround yourself with. You are so loving, and that love pours out of you constantly. If there is a person in your life that is taking more than they give, now is the time to make them aware. A friendship that has you talking up to someone who looks down on you is not a friendship worth your effort!

"Knowledge can be acquired outside experience but knowing is also connected to experience."

Dr. Ailene Moreton Robinson, *Whiteness, Epistemology, and Indigenous Representation*

Sagittarius - Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw
November 23 - December 21



Hey Sag, as much as we all love your lone wolf independence, you've had a bit of tunnel vision lately. Its time to stop and consider the people in your life and their unique experiences. Take time to lift up someone you love today. You will find is lifts you up as well!

"...We need to see the interconnectedness and the totality of human relationships"

Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw, *Seeing Race Again*

Pisces - Judith Butler
February 19 - March 20



Life is pulling you in a current, little fish. There's a initial instinct to fight it, but why? If your goal is to live each day to the fullest, you should flow like water through them, and try not to get caught up in little things like labels. Focus on your own journey, and love every moment of it!

"Possibility is not a luxury; it is as crucial as bread."

Judith Butler, *Undoing Gender*

8

INTRODUCING

bell
hooks

THE AUTHOR, THE PROFESSOR,
THE SOCIAL ACTIVIST



Activism has taken many forms within each decade. Today, social media is the battleground, and emotions run high when you're faced with what passes for debate in a Youtube comment section. If you plan on adding your voice to the revolution, I suggest you take some time to learn from a revolutionary, such as bell hooks.

"The first act of violence that patriarchy demands of males is not violence toward women. Instead patriarchy demands of all males that they engage in acts of psychic self-mutilation, that they kill off the emotional parts of themselves."
(hooks, 2004)

Do you recognize this quote? Its made its rounds online, often without credit to the visionary behind it. This quote is from bell hooks' book *The Will to Change Men, Masculinity, and Love*. This novel was written in 2004, and is one of more than 30 novels written by bell hooks on gender, capitalism, and the intersectionality of race.

bell hooks has lived through all stages of modern social justice movements, and her writing reflects her dedication to change and progress. What rings true in all of her work is that the issues that she saw in her youth are the same issues that youth are facing today. Injustice will look different in every century, and it is important that we train our gaze to see the covert ways in which oppression is being carried.

When a young person desires change in the world they are growing into, there is a sense of helplessness when faced with the sheer amount of obstacles blocking that goal. bell hooks' bibliography is excellent "training" to aid your education if change is what you want to achieve.

FUN FACT

Notice how how bell hooks' name isn't capitalized? Thats not a mistake! Her legal name is Gloria Jean Hopkins. She does not capitalize her pen name because she believes her work on gender, race and class should be at the forefront, and that the individual is not a important as the message.

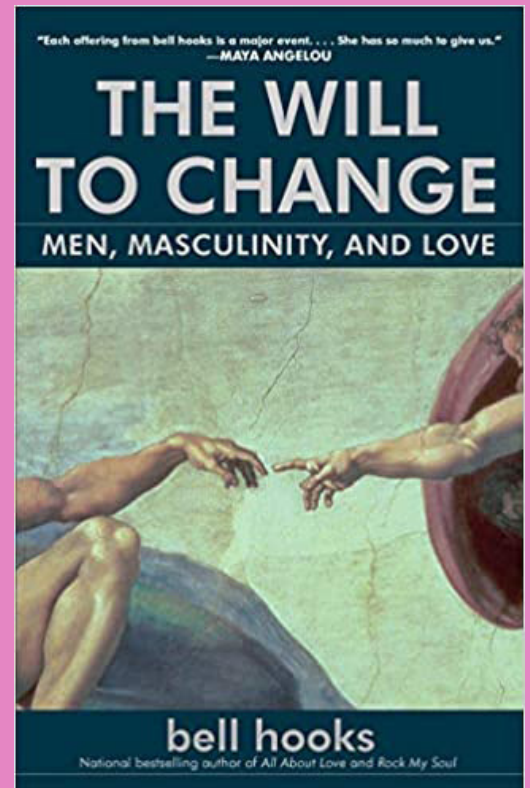
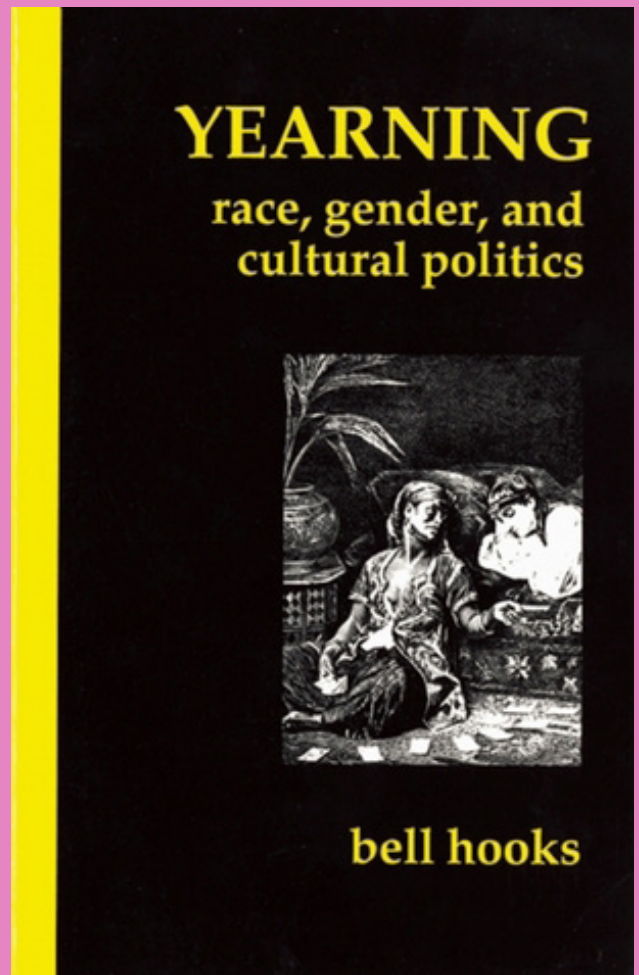
In her essay Postmodern Blackness, hooks' states that:

"Yearning is the word that best describes a common psychological state shared by many of us, cutting across boundaries of race, class, gender, and sexual practice. Specifically, in relation to the post-modernist deconstruction of "master" narratives, the yearning that wells in the hearts and minds of those whom such narratives have silenced is the longing for critical voice."
(hooks, 1990)

We are all yearning for change, justice, and a level playing field to experience life on. It may feel like an uphill battle, but there is one important thing to remember as this climb is made: Your voice has worth. bell hooks has used her voice for decades, and it has the same power today as it did in the 70s.

Today, we have immediate and limitless access to information and resources through our phones. This access gives us a front row seat to unfolding discussions on race, gender, class and capitalism, as well as countless communities to support in the name of social justice. However, along with this is a equal access to hate, bigotry, and violence of every kind. The anonymity that the internet allows has emboldened those who challenge change at every opportunity, and unfortunately many social media platforms prioritize engagement over morality, so this behaviour is often left unchallenged.

Your voice has worth, despite the hate and toxicity of those who would like to keep you silenced. Although the landscape has changed, bell hooks' work resonates with the hurdles we face when challenging the "master" narratives that have influenced our society. Even a small step such as expanding your reading can have a lasting impact on your outlook and output into the world. So why not get your 'hooks' into some bell hooks today?



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Quotes VS TWEETS

Some might think of Critical Theory as a thing of the past, but truth be told, critical thinking and theory is present in more everyday instances than you might think. Just check out these quotes and try to figure out if they are quotes from some of the great critical thinkers/philosophers highlighted in this zine or is it a modern day thought from celebrities on Twitter. (Answer key found at the bottom of the page)

1 "Truth Telling and Full acknowledgment of injustice can be one of the most important steps towards healing."



2 "We must dismantle the prison industrial complex. Its racist, harmful, and deeply exploitative."



3 "Interpreters do not decode poems, they make them"



4 "What we do is more important than what we say or what we say we believe."



5 "If you don't like the road you're walking, start paving another one."



6 "Censorship is a productive form of power: It is not merely privative, but formative as well."



7 "Not every use causes damage. There are lots of ways to 'use' something."



8 "Rap projects a critical voice, explaining, demanding, urging."



9 "Being yourself is the most important thing you can be. After all, if you're not yourself, who will be?"



10 "A structure only remains a structure by being reinstated by one."



Are YOU the Next Critical Theorist?



Find out if you qualify and

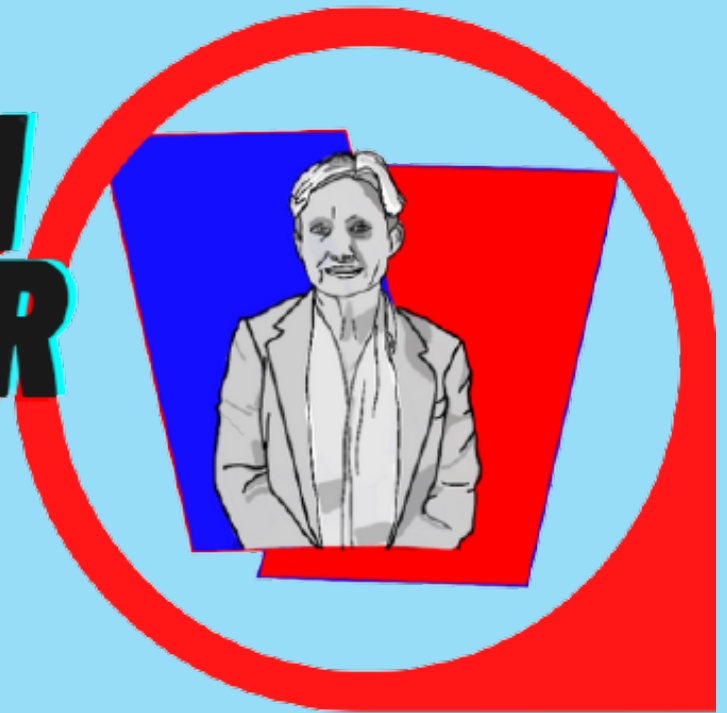
ENTER NOW

@

Must be able to think for oneself. All States, Provinces and Countries eligible, excluding state of denial and Quebec. Deadline is day before death, no purchase necessary but self reflection is required.

Let's Talk Censorship with

JUDITH BUTLER



The word 'censorship' has been thrown around a lot recently, usually without a full understanding of its meaning. In the same vein as "cancelling", the word "censorship" has been used as a response to well deserved criticism, and with a complete lack of understanding of its meaning. The more we understand about what censorship actually is, the easier it will be to spot it being used in the wrong ways and for the wrong reasons.

Enter Judith Butler, philosopher and gender theorist, and her essay *Implicit Censorship and Discursive Discourse*. In this essay, Butler refers to two types of censorship: Implicit and Explicit. Explicit censorship is the kind we are all familiar with, as it is very f@#\$ing easy to spot. There is not hiding of what is being done, and a clear understanding of what is being censored.

Implicit censorship involves something a bit more insidious in nature. For example, a corporation may not explicitly state they are anti-union, but their employees are most likely told that unions are taking advantage of them, in lieu of the millionaires denying them paid sick leave.

To take it a step further, Butler's work also focuses on the performance of identity and gender, which in itself is a form of censorship. Was there a time where you held yourself back from an interest, topic, or even an certain outfit because of how it contradicted the image you had carefully constructed for yourself?

This kind of censorship is most apparent on social media, where you cultivate a following based on how you present your ideas, appearance, and who you interact with. It can even be seen in modern day activism, where someone will appear to say, support, and promote a cause, but fail to back up this with action (re: performative activism).

Butler points to censorship within how we approach the social constructs around our identity as well. A woman is seen as too sensitive, so she wipes emotion from her argument. A black man is seen as dangerous, and so he suppresses anger and frustration, no matter the circumstance.

Knowing this, it is clear that the most dangerous kind of censorship is not the kind we can clearly identify, but the kind that has been carefully rooted in our every day lives. Butler states that:

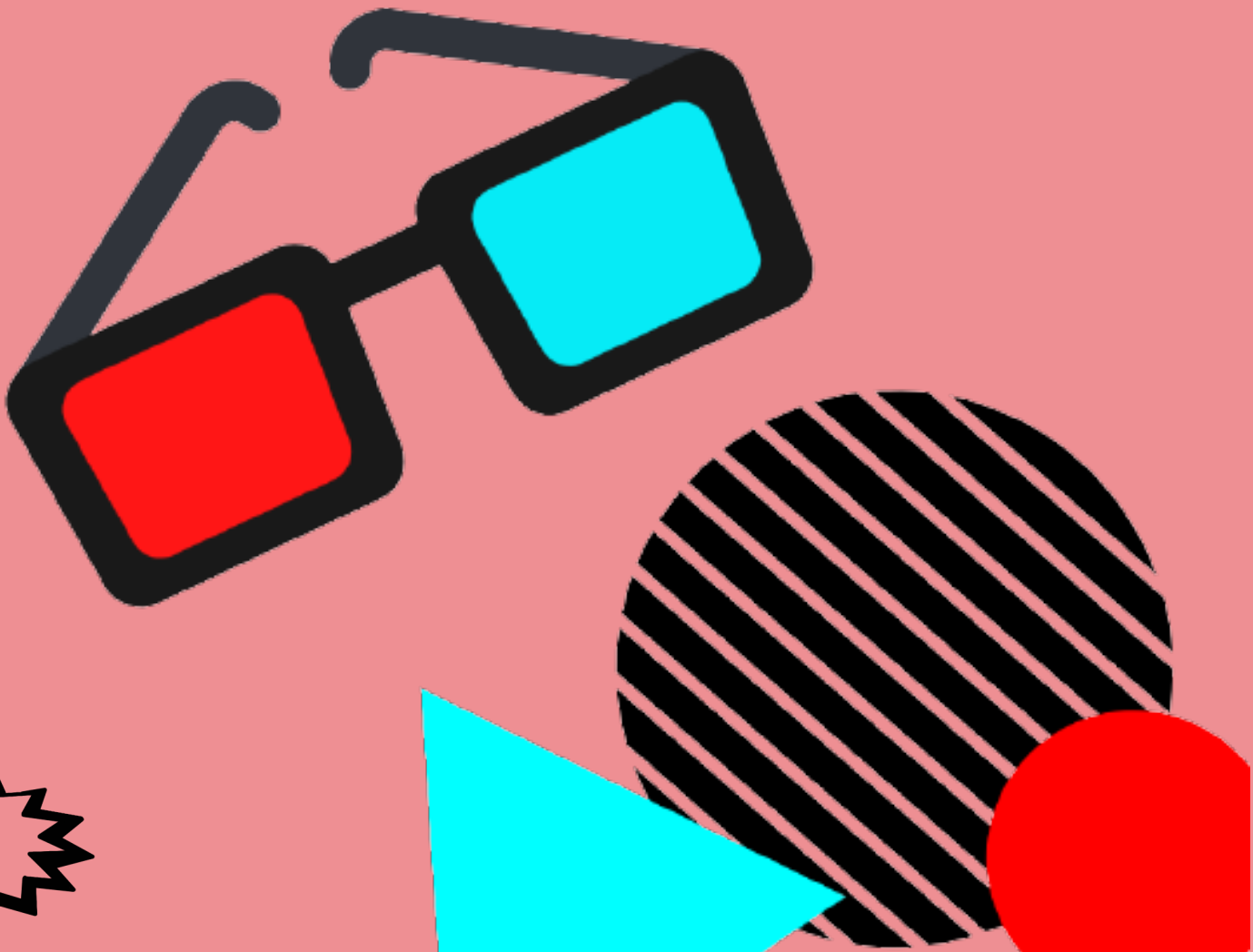
“It is one thing for certain types of speech to be censored, and quite another for censorship to operate on a level prior to speech, namely as the constituting norm by which the speakable is differentiated from the unspeakable.”

(Butler, 1997)

Censorship is a multi-layered concept, with many facets beyond the explicit. The person you are with others and the person you are alone will always be strangers to each other.

We perform, in little ways, to the people in our life, because we are socialized to do so. It is also baked into the constructs around us, in subtle, harmful ways, that are designed to seep into our actions without our knowledge.

When we recognize censorship, we can see clearly how much harm it is truly causing. When we recognize censorship, it changes from a stone wall to a pair of tinted lens, in which we can identify what we are seeing, and what is being withheld.



Which Theorist Are You?

Reading through all of this you might find yourself conflicted, are you more into the ideals of identity of intersectionalities? Maybe your passion is on the social performance of gender and censorship? Or do you think you would get along swimmingly with Stanley about his literalist theories? Well now you can find out! Take this quiz to see if you're more of a hooks, Butler, or Fish!

You're filling out your dating profile. How do you describe yourself?

- a) I don't like labels. I love living without constructs or norms.
- b) My favourite thing to do is get lost in a book.
- c) I like partners who don't mind a friendly debate. I love a challenge!

Out of these options, where would you go for a dream vacation?

- a) Meditation retreat. You want an out of body experience!
- b) Cottage in the woods. You have reading to catch up on!
- c) A weekend in New York. You love the sights and sounds of the city!

If you could read one book based on the title alone, which of the following would you pick?

- a) Undoing Gender.
- b) How to Write a Sentence and How to Read One.
- c) Killing Rage: Ending Racism

When you disagree with someone, how do you resolve it?

- a) You hit them with the facts, you can't argue with logic!
- b) You try to see things from their perspective. How do they view you in this conflict?
- c) Walk away with your head held high. You know they'll see your side in their own time.

Your friend is going through a tough time. How do you comfort them?

- a) You take them out on a walk, and change up their surroundings.
- b) You tell them they're not alone, and share your own experiences in a similar situation.
- c) You let them vent. You are ready to listen and understand their struggles.

If you had one superpower, what would it be?

- a) The power to shapeshift.
- b) The power to read minds.
- c) The power to heal.

What do you think is your best quality?

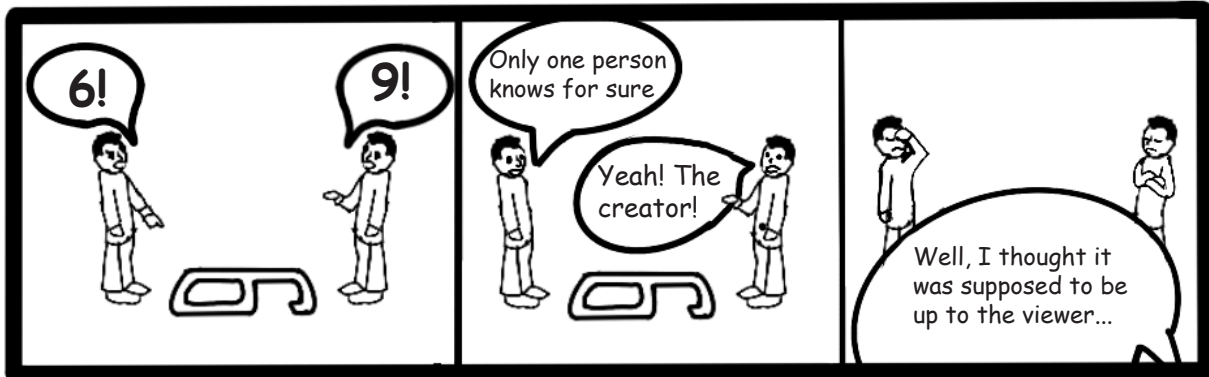
- a) My loyalty.
- b) My empathy.
- c) My compassion.

Answers found at the bottom of the page. But regardless of your results you and your perspectives are as unique of each of these theorists. Although you may relate to one more than the other don't forget to lend multiple perspectives when thinking critically.

CRITICALITY



The Artist's Intention



The Content Sommelier



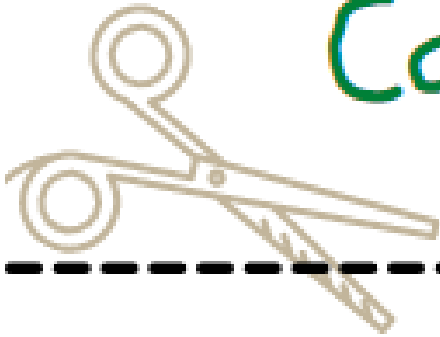
"It says here that this piece is a metaphore!"

**Make your own comic here!!
Ensure that it fits within this space! Oh and that everyone can read it, and that it fits the theme! But no pressure! You have all this room to make it!
Good luck!!!**

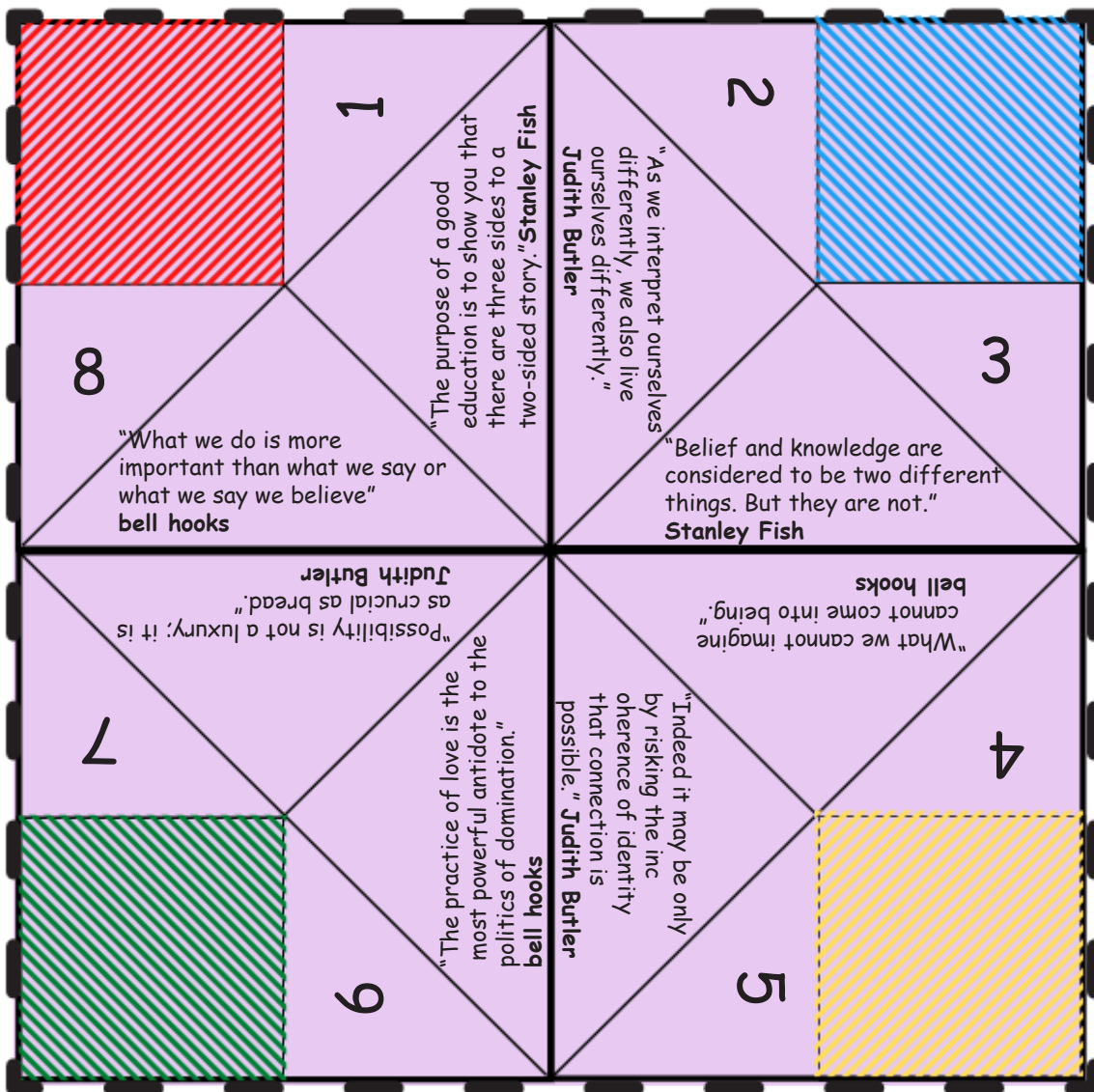
Why is it so hard to make your own content now a days?

CRITICAL THEORY

Cootie Catcher

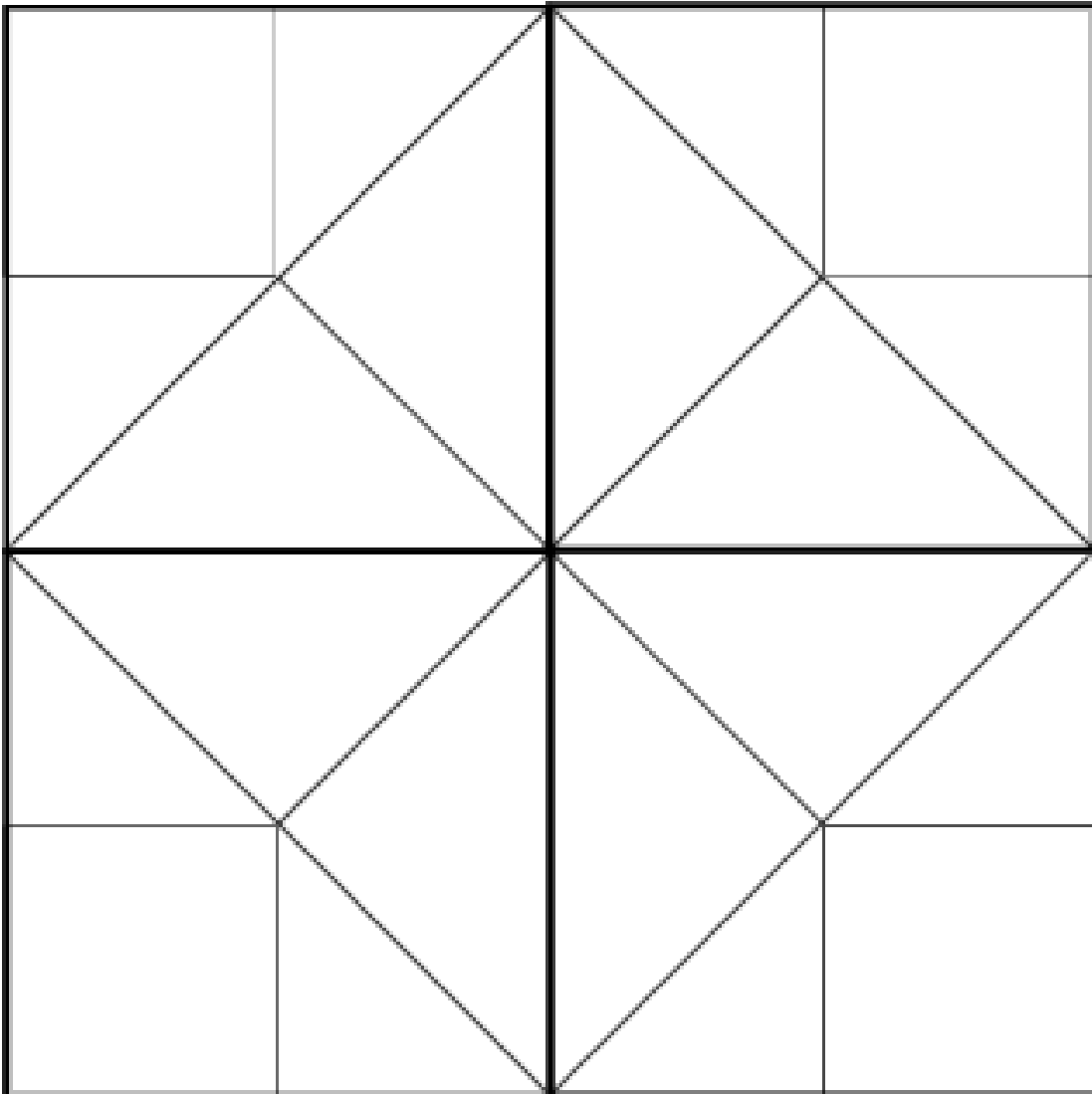


Instructions on next page!





Open your phone's camera, then focus on this square to get the tutorial link!



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OFF-the-MIND