

**ASIA 2512: Explorations of Japanese Animation
NGE Journal and Response Writing #6**

***Neon Genesis Evangelion* or, what the hell am I watching?!**

NGE Journal

For our viewing of the *Neon Genesis Evangelion* series and *End of Evangelion* movie, you are required to keep a journal (analog or digital) in which to record your observations, thoughts, reactions, and questions to each episode and the movie. Entries can be as long or short as you deem necessary (maybe shoot for about a half page), but this is not a formal writing so you can be as “sketchy” as you like. You can even sketch pictures or doodle if you're so inclined. The goal is to keep in touch with the plot, characters, and developments in a way that will facilitate your understanding and interpretations of the show's themes and meanings. Doing this along the way will also make the final Response Writing easier to complete for the final class session. You will turn in journals after Episode 16 (by class time 4/11) and along with RW #6 at the last class session on 4/20.

**Response Writing #6
CHOOSE ONLY ONE!**

1. First, ponder this statement:

“Most of the people who criticize *Evangelion* indicate that it has a defect or breakdown as a story. To be sure, in fact Shinji is not a hero of a story; that is, he does not try to do anything for himself, and he does not ‘grow’ nor does he become ‘independent.’ That in itself is correct. Yet, as I have already mentioned, what *Evangelion* deals with is a self-referential theme that relates to the interiority of itself, and it cannot be told as a story. It is wrong to estimate or criticize *Evangelion* as a story.”

Then, explain what the author means by “a self-referential theme that relates to the interiority of itself” and why “it cannot be told as a story.” If the theme of NGE cannot be told as a story, how can it be—how is it—told?

Or, you can dispute the author's statement with your own well-reasoned and persuasive interpretation of Shinji as the hero of a story.

2. First, trace the nature and apparent function of Shinji's relations with the various females presented in *Evangelion* and provide an explanation/interpretation of each relationship.

Then, speculate why he ends up with whom he does at the end of *End of Evangelion*.

Email your e-copy (Word DOC or Apple Pages) to:

RW6.bvu3jy9uuv@u.box.com

by noon Tuesday, March 28.

Please name your file in this form: lastname-rw6.doc (for example: figal-rw6.doc)

The episodes of NGE are available at the course web site found at: <http://figal-sensei.org>.