

Media & Literature Summer Reading/Watching

One of the central questions of this course asks us to examine the way the media influences an audience's understanding of the world both personally and culturally. We will consider a wide range of media sources, including print media (newspapers, magazines, books, etc.), broadcast media (TV, radio, movies, etc.), and Internet media (social networks, online forums, podcasts, etc.). This summer, you will have the opportunity to compare a recent novel to its film version and begin to hypothesize what biases may have impacted the decisions to make some of the changes.



The Hate U Give, by Angie Thomas¹ *The Hate U Give*, directed by George Tillman, Jr.²

1. **Read the novel.** Do this first. You do not have to annotate; however, if something strikes you as being particularly notable, then certainly make note of it.
2. **Watch the film.** Do this *after* reading the novel. While you watch the film, make note of differences between it and the novel, taking into consideration the characters, the plot, the major themes, the language, etc.
3. **After you finish *both* reading the novel *and* watching the film**, select *at least five* differences between the two and write detailed notes about what the differences are as well as why you believe they may have occurred. You are welcome to do additional research into the writers (novel and screenplay), director, and actors, if you'd like to. In particular, think carefully about who you believe the intended audience is for the novel versus for the film. Can you support your hypothesis about the intended audiences of each with the differences you noted?

OPTIONAL: Did you really enjoy the novel? If so, and if you'd like to keep reading more fictional works about the experiences of young Black men and women, I'd recommend the following titles: *On the Come Up* (Angie Thomas), *All American Boys* (Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely), and *Slay* (Brittney Morris).

¹ If you prefer an audiobook, the version read by Bahni Turpin is excellent.

² The film is streaming on HBO and is also available to rent on a number of platforms including Amazon.