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Task in the order I received them:

Task One: Semiotic Analysis = 542 words.

Task Two: Manifesto writing= 617 words.

Task Three: Practice-based writing= 502 words.

Task One: Semiotic Analysis.

Signs are a key element of this field, there are many theses on semiotics, proclaimed by many authorities. Ferdinand de Saussure believed that the meaning of signs results from their difference (Chandler, 2002, p. 75). I will try to examine these differences and get to know the deeper intention of the author of the painting. Focusing on three aspects of semiotics.



Fig 1, (Banksy,2006, *Wall and Piece*)

Semiotic analysis of Banksy's work presenting the Burger King Kid, this is the common name of this painting because it is difficult to verify what exactly this work is called.

My choice fell on a work of street art, the exhibition of which called "The Art of Banksy" appeared in the Arena Mall in Herzliya in April 2017(Ynet News,2017), where sculptures and paintings from about 40 international private collections were exhibited. Visible elements in the painting show a very thin boy.

Using connotations, you can see that his position shows the lack of a stable place to live. His facial expression shows fear, which may mean a lack of security and a difficult financial situation. He has a crown on his head. Detonation is seen as a symbol of power and leadership, it can also symbolize victory. However, in the context of the whole image, it shows social inequalities, between luxury and extreme poverty. This is emphasized by the flies flying over the empty bowl, which lies next to the boy on the floor. In ancient Egypt, flies meant a symbol of courage, which can also mean that, despite such a demanding situation, the boy continues to fight and does not give up. It is also worth mentioning the name of the famous restaurant chain Burger King, which is headquartered in Florida. The use of the name of the famous chain in this image emphasizes the irony of the one-to-one situation. Considering that the number of these restaurants is over 15 thousand, half of which are in the United States. Therefore, you can guess how much capital this restaurant chain carries, and at the same time how huge the demand for unhealthy food is. While in the less affluent countries of the world, hunger and poverty are on a large scale that we still cannot cope with as a world. According to the WHO 1 in 11 people worldwide are struggling with hunger, and in Africa the figure is as high as 1 in 5 people (WHO,2024). Intertextuality the artist remains completely anonymous, emphasizing the problems of hunger in the world, inequality, and abstraction. Looking at the whole, one can use the metaphor (Danesi, 1995), that Banksy put coffee on the table, writing next to the painting, "Sometimes I fell so sick at the state of the world I can't finish my second apple pie." (Banksy,2006, p.188).

To sum up, I initially did not notice that this was the author's huge opposition to the system of that time, and to what extent globally we do not notice the suffering of children in a humanitarian crisis. As Ferdinand de Saussure claims, it is a science that examines the role of signs as part of our social life (Visual Memory, n. d). This analysis led me to deep reflection on consumerism, the disease of the 21st century.

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Figure 1: Banksy (2006). *Wall and Piece*. Century. ISBN 1844137872. First published in the United Kingdom in 2005 by Century, The Random House Group Limited. (Accessed: 01 November 2024).

Task Two Manifesto Writing.

1. Do not judge other people's actions or choices.
2. Avoid consumerism, it is a fleeting pleasure.
3. Spend time alone and listen to yourself.
4. Feel the fear and do it anyway.
5. Nothing changes, if nothing changes.
6. Be grateful for what you already have.

7. Accept your flaws and love them, they are still a part of you.

8. Courage is not the lack of fear, but the overcoming of it.

2. Avoid consumerism it is a fleeting pleasure.



Fig 1, (Greenpeace, 2017, *The impact of consumerism on happiness*)

The average citizen of China spends at least 2 hours on online shopping, which sounds concerning (Greenpeace 2017).

Well, even in the seventeenth century, several Asian countries had well-developed interests. Consumerism is not just our contemporary problem. In 1900, in Western Europe, its beginnings were observed, which were continued by the United States. As we know, marketing is currently very developed, making it easier to influence potential consumers. This, however, is something concerning for us, as a side effect of excessive shopping addiction may be a lesser awareness of what we feel, because yet another new purchase perfectly distracts our emotions (Stearns

2006). Producers of well-known brands are fully aware of this; with premeditation, websites operate in such a way as to provoke an impulsive purchase with a single click (Marshall, 2004). In summary, if you catch yourself that when you are angry, sad, or stressed, you reach for your phone and buy something to improve your mood, consider whether you really need it and what emotion you are struggling to cope with. Then make a decision.

4. Feel the fear and do it anyway.



Fig 2, (Film 89, 2018, Free Solo)

The story of Alex Honnold in the film Free Solo tells of his extraordinary courage while climbing the El Capitan wall in Yosemite (Free Solo 2018). It shows how he engages in his passions, overcoming his personal fears. It is an inspiring film in the context of breaking through one's weaknesses.

Along with success comes change, which is what we most often fear due to our existing habits. However, we can consciously choose how we want to experience these concepts so that they are not such a huge obstacle for us (Kahn, 2021).

From a psychological point of view, one should moderately engage with being a narcissist (Storr, 1989, p. 43) just to develop one's skills and overcome the fear of the unknown.

Taking on challenges despite discomfort allows us to satisfy our developmental needs, which we often postpone simply because we dislike the feeling of fear. From my point of view, each subsequent change follows a similar pattern.

When trying to go through this stage, I often even experience paralysis; over time, this changes and begins to be a norm that I manage to tame, and in the following stages, it gets better and better, bringing even emotions like satisfaction from the changes made.

So, be afraid and do it.

5 Nothing changes, if nothing changes.



Fig 3, (Film Affinity, 2006, Bobby)

One move in chess can change everything, just like in life. Freedom of action is a beautiful power; we often forget it is an aspect of freedom. A good example would be the inspiring actor Anthony Hopkins, who was born in Wales, in the town of Port Talbot. He made many decisions that changed the fate of many people, but also of national goods such as national parks. He was the president of the National Trust's Snowdonia Appeal, where he raised funds for the protection of Wales' natural beauty. Another and simultaneously one of his many noble decisions was filming a project for The Cancer Project, in which he significantly contributed to the change that had a broader public reception (Look to the Stars, n.d.). I think that if we want to make changes in our lives or in our society, strategic and thoughtful actions are needed, just like in a game of chess. I really liked this metaphor; it is a notable example because if we do not decide on the next move, then nothing will change in the game, just like in life.

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Task Three: Practice-based writing.



Fig 1, (*Robin*, Sylwia Lakoma, 2023)

Robin is the subject of my work, which I completed over a year ago at the request of my florist friend. I was surprised by the unusual commission she received, and that is why she turned to me for help in designing a bird of the species robin out of polystyrene. I had to create the whole thing from a composition of fresh flowers.

After initial arrangements, I started gathering information online about the colors of this bird. I managed to establish that the key colors are beige, orange, white, and a dark color. I noticed that in the materials I received, there was no orange color, so I had to rely on my own creativity, as well as the tight time constraints associated with this project.

I was very keen for my project to be emotional, as it was to be prepared for a funeral ceremony. I began my work with a drawing, which on this material was not the easiest.

Polystyrene would dent with stronger pressure, and this posed a problem with my visualization of its form. I was concerned at this stage about the aesthetics, which in Greek means feelings or perception (Freeland, 2001, p. 8), that

were important to me. During the next stage, I focused on the background, which I made from live moss. I then moved on to arranging the composition with flowers. The complete process was very intriguing, as I had not had the opportunity to create something similar before. At the same time, I felt that the lack of a key color might pose a problem. Instead, I decided to use red, which was available in the palette of flowers I had, and I decorated the frame with white flowers along with small elements of smaller flowers at the bottom of the composition. I also added a small element of red in the upper corner to make it seem more cohesive. I must admit that I really like the background I used; the moss highlights the natural environment of this bird species. The white flowers around it symbolize peace and spirituality, and the whole is sentimental. It is said that artistic value depends on its rarity (Berger et al., 1972, p. 21). Thinking about this now, the final effect is satisfying for me, but I also see several organizational shortcomings, due to the lack of appropriate colors. I think I could have created just the bird project using only white flowers and then spray-painted them, which I had, and used the appropriate colors according to the natural hues of this species. In summary, I will use the quote, “Great artistic power may produce fine works of art even though technique is defective” (Warburton, 2003, p. 42). Today, I would carry out this project with much better product organization, but I would also indicate that I need significantly more time for realization. Reflective writing about one’s work allows for a unique perspective, drawing new conclusions, and recognizing one’s uniqueness.

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List of Figures: Fig 1, (*Robin*, Sylwia Lakoma, 2023).

