

■ Learning Plan 4.21

Essay Through the Gift Shop

This is a pilot study for you to consider as an action research project.

Take one teaching group of students studying representation and take them through this activity. Identify another group who will *not* take part.

Here is an online article by Cynthia Fuchs (April 2010) about the Banksy film, *Exit Through the Gift Shop*: <http://www.popmatters.com/pm/review/124099-exit-through-the-gift-shop>

Students need to see the whole film: <http://www.banksyfilm.com/>

Set up a wiki with four sections – genre, audience, representation, audience.

Four groups, each taking ownership of a category, build up the wiki over a timed period. You can choose whether to make this open access or closed to your students only (the former is much better, if you can).

On the wiki they need to discuss how far the key concept is stretched by the film. At the end of the time period, close down the wiki, return the students to the course and give the following essay question to *both* sets of students: 'The media do not just present reality, they re-present it. Discuss.'

The students who have done this work are not allowed to mention the Banksy film in their responses.

In marking the work, your job is also to assess the responses from the Banksy group. Is their ability to tackle this more rudimentary question about media representation enhanced by their engagement with a more complex and challenging example?