Understanding Media: *Nightcrawler* Paper

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Choose one of the prompts below, and write a two-four-page paper. You must use CDs (concrete details, evidence) from both the film and *at least one other* outside source. The paper should be in MLA format with a Works Cited page.

1. Read the following quote from Jordan Hoffman’s review[[1]](#footnote-1) and write an argument that agrees or disagrees with his views.

“The case of ‘Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission’ successfully argued that corporations have the same rights as people, and are therefore to be considered as such. The purpose of a corporation is to make a profit for its shareholders by any and all legal means, exploiting its resources as fully as possible.

One hopes and assumes that large corporations will breed a fair and estimable culture to maintain a good work environment, ensuring a balance against a pure profit motive. But anyone who isn't a child will tell you this is absolute horsesh\*t.

Merriam-Webster defines a sociopath as, “someone who behaves in a dangerous or violent way towards other people and does not feel guilty about such behavior.” The corporate drive for profit slouches toward the sociopathic by design – and “Citizens United” now says that corporations are people.

“Nightcrawler,” a fantastic, sleek and (despite all this Econ 101) fun satire shows us what the physical embodiment of uncontrolled capitalism would look like. It would look like an underfed, raccoon-faced Jake Gyllenhaal zooming around Los Angeles in the middle of the night.”

1. Choose a symbol (or two or three) from the film. In a detailed analysis, describe how the symbolism helps create the theme/s.
2. Using the Society of Professional Journalists’ Code of Ethics (https://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp) explore the moral conduct of Louis Bloom.

1. http://www.mtv.com/news/2772837/review-nightcrawler/ [↑](#footnote-ref-1)