

# CALCULATED FICTION

w i n t e r e d i t i o n

## The Thesis

### vitals

12-15 pages

uses first 5 winter texts

exhibits grounding in last quarter's concepts

includes a review of relevant outside research

drafts and revisions are required in sequence

This quarter, we have a special plan for your writing. This time, there really is just one "Synthesis" paper to prepare for, an essay that builds on your learning last quarter and argues a thesis grounded in the first five weeks of winter readings.

This larger thesis will be based on several smaller tasks as we work through the first half of the quarter. We'll call them "Thesis Components."

The emphasis of your work will then be on a series of substantial revisions until you have a polished, solid essay. The revision process takes the place of last quarter's "Essay" and two "Syntheses."

## TOPIC

For this essay your job is to be the most sensitive reader you can be, using mathematics as your super sense-o-matic brain accelerator. *Zap* !

Your essay will chronicle your adventures through five difficult and strange texts and explore how mathematical ideas allow you to reveal their deep structures and rich multiplicity of meaning.

To put it another way:

$$\text{Math} + \text{Reader} + \text{Text} = ?$$

Last quarter we spent a good deal of time studying mathematical approaches to *writing*. At the same time, we've understood that math provides a particular lens through which we can see different aspects of what we read and, in many cases, through which we can more fully understand what we read. Your essay should exemplify the usefulness of mathematical ideas in analyzing the structure and meaning of a text.