Blog Post 1: Close Reading *Gamer* with Kermode, Heidegger, or Haraway
Minimum 500 words
Due Wednesday, September 9th

For your first blog post I would like you to pick a small, *specific* moment from Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor's film *Gamer* (2009) to closely and carefully interpret,[1] and I would like you to put your analysis of a specific moment of the film in conversation with one of the theoretical essays we have read so far: either with Frank Kermode's "The End," Martin Heidegger's "The Question Concerning Technology," or Donna Haraway's "A Manifesto for Cyborgs." For your post I want you to focus principally on *form*, on *how* the film is constructed, on the narrative strategies it uses, on how it plays with genre, on how it formally uses or comments upon technology, etc. How might either Kermode, Heidegger, or Haraway allow you to say something about the formal aspects of the film? How does the film engage with narrative and technology? What kind of relationship does the film posit between these two things? And most important, so what? Why does it matter that the film is engaging with narrative and technology in the way it is? What is interesting and important about what you have noted and observed? What kinds of things does the film reveal about life in the twenty-first century? About games? About entertainment, politics, history, simulation, the human, etc.? (You may also feel free to draw upon Steven Shaviro's essay, "Gamer," if you wish.) The more specific you are here, the stronger and more interesting your analysis will be.

   Blogs are notoriously informal so this does not need to be a formal paper—i.e., you will not need an introduction, thesis, or conclusion here. I would, however, still like you to make an *argument for an interpretation*, and to get right to the heart of the matter in your reading as quickly as possible. I am most interested in what you have to *say* about the film here and why you are saying it than I am in receiving merely a description or synopsis (remember your audience, your classmates and I have seen the film). Though informal, I still expect your work to be rigorous. These posts should be critical, incisive, and interpretive. Further, 500 words is not much space to say anything, so your writing and thinking should be specific, focused, and concrete.

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[1] So this should signal to you that you might want to take notes on the film as we watch it so that you will be able to more specifically, concretely, and incisively discuss a small, specific moment from the film.