Prom Night in Kansas City
Homework Questions
15 Points, Due Monday, March 20th, 2006

Select any THREE of the questions below to answer. You should write between a half to 1½ pages (typed, double space) for each question and be sure to provide support for your answers from the film. If you have questions, email me: Tyler.Haugen@csun.edu

1. How did you personally become socialized to the idea of prom? What were your expectations, hopes, ideas about prom? Did it meet them? Were you disappointed? Did you even go to prom?

2. Clothing seems to be very important as a symbol of prom. First address and define a symbol. Then, discuss the symbolism of the dress, the tuxedo, or in some cases the rebellion against these symbols.

3. Discuss the social construction (meaning that we create through our interactions and beliefs) the idea of being Prom King and Queen. What does it mean to be King or Queen?

4. Discuss the commercialization of prom. How is prom a 2 billion dollar consumer industry? How have we turned it into a money driven industry? How is this reflective of society?

5. Compare and Contrast the proms at the four settings in the film. What made each unique? What made them similar? Look for themes that you find in them all and things that are special to each of them.

6. Prom is only one of many “coming of age” rituals that youth go through in high school. Discuss other coming of age rituals that you experience in high school. How do coming of age rituals act as a means of socialization? As a way of becoming a member of society?

The High Schools/Proms/Settings shown in the film were:
• Westport High School (shown as a city school with primarily African American students)
• Center Place Restoration School (religious Mormon off-shoot)
• LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, questioning)
• Shawnee Mission North (suburban prom, more upper middle class)