Essay Outline 2: Persona

**Question:** How are SF authors obsessed with an examination of persona? How is the examination of persona in a SF (think Pete the Puppet thing in “The Handler”)a metaphor for how we use persona in our modern lives? Compare or contrast two of the stories we have studied in class.

**Potential Thesis:** In Science Fiction texts persona is depicted as useful yet destructive. That is to say the inherent falseness of persona, while useful in modern society in certain situations, can also lead to negative consequences for the person presenting a false face.

**Potential Texts:**The Handler, The Life of Anybody

“My name is Neo” - Neo to Agent Smith

**Useful: Presenting a public persona even, if it is inherently false or even dishonest, can put people at ease or even make one popular.**

1. The Handler - Pete is the engine for the party
2. The life of anybody - pretending to be interesting.
3. The Matrix - Mr. Anderson at his job versus NEO… or the One (I’m not the One, or am I?)

**Social Ostracism: People who are too honest, revealing how they truly are, are ostracized or seen as freaks**

1. The Handler- Harry get back in the suit
2. The life of anybody the disappointment they feel by not being selected
3. The Matrix Cypher (his true self belongs in the Matrix)

**Putting on the airs of a persona can be something that is dangerous or unhealthy**

1. The handler Harry
2. The life of anybody…they live an inherently false and dishonest life
3. Matrix: Cypher’s destruction of himself and his team…