Essay Outline 4: Liminal Beings

**Question:** How are liminal beings prevalent in the text we studied in class?

**Potential Thesis:** In science fiction, sometimes aliens, robots, cyborgs, and computers are more human than humans. These “liminal” beings often bridge humanity and something different. They can help to tell us about ourselves by illustrating human frailty, and overcoming human limitations.

**Potential Texts:** Alien (Ash, Kane’s Son), The Electric Ant, The Matrix, Strange Wine, They’re Made of Meat.

**In each case the liminal being faces a human frailty in the form of an existential crisis. Who am I what am I here for.**

1. Willis Kaw, death and tragedy in his life. “This shouldn’t be happening to me”
2. Poole “I am just a figurehead”
3. Neo “No, I don’t believe it, its not real!”

**Overcoming human limitations**

1. Willis Kaw’s suicide… his death he returns to his life as a powerful being, albeit in a universe of pain
2. Poole starts to alter his own reality by experimenting with his reality tape
3. Neo learns kung-fu, becomes an incredibly powerful member of the team. Rescues Morpheus.

**Becoming more than human**

1. Willis Kaw returns to his alien form as Plydo. He is an honored member of society not punished
2. In an attempt to perceive all reality at once Poole destroys himself.
3. Neo dies but is reborn as “THE ONE” he destroys agent Smith and is able to re-write the matrix.