

How do composers represent the impact of people's political motivations and actions on individual lives and the broader society? In your response, make detailed reference to your prescribed text and ONE other related text of your choosing.

As individuals it is inherent within our motivation to politically represent our own values favourably, however this can deceive the truth. Composers effectively represent the detrimental impact of individuals motivations to represent politics. Politics itself refers to the way in which an individual's artificial perspective compares to the world. Representations are hence a construction on versions of reality and are not necessarily a natural reflection of this truth, due to the impeding, subjective nature of own political biases. The 1997 film Wag the Dog directed by Barry Levinson reveals how the manipulation and fabricated representation of politics to suit the political motivation of individuals impacts society. Contrastingly, the news article 'Pizzagate' Gunman liked Alex Jones written by Tim Mak (2016) emphasises the impact of the distortion of truth and the lack of verisimilitude within the representation of people and politics.

Political representations are simply motivations to hinder or gain support from differing individual perspectives, however the emphasis on certain views of politics alternatively can fabricate the varying truth on events and personalities, which leads to a lack of truth. Wag the Dog highlights how the media is easily used in the representation of politics to sway the public of an idea or perspective. The passive nature of individuals accepting the truth through the media reveals the divide between people and politics as authenticity is deficient. This is represented through the repetition of rhetorical questions by Ames and Brean "Don't you want to know if it's true? What difference does it make if it's true?" which establishes how truth is irrelevant in the media and politics. This establishes the motivation of the president's staff to deceive the public to regain office. Therefore, the absent need for truth represents the impact of the deception and fabrication of reality, as truth and fiction is blurred. Furthermore, the mise en scene and salience of the television screens at the airport reveals Brean's political motivation to influence individuals through the power of the media. The panning shot to the scene shows the change to serious and sober facial expressions of the public who focus on the television screens, which highlights their reliance on screens as the dominant form of news and political messages to the public. Thus, showing how Brean and Motss's motivation to manipulate truth to gain support for the president was effective. Additionally, the low angle shot looking up to the television screens reinforces how Levinson expresses the immense reliance and power of the media to the people, especially considering the lack of truth displayed on the screen. Moreover, the accusative tone by Senator Neal to "Let the people decide" reveals the illusion that the next president is determined by the people. This is ironic as the audience, we know that it is not the people's choice, but the deception of truth by the media to sway the people. Therefore, reinforcing the impact of the motivation to manipulate the truth is the lack of choice and influence of the public to their politics.

In contrast, the Pizzagate article emphasises the detrimental impact of individuals fabricating the truth to suit their political motivations. This article explores how an individual created a theory online about a pizza parlor running an undercover "sex-ring" that Democratic officials held fundraisers at. The clear biased tone in "they [democratic party] not only lost an eminently winnable presidential election, but now their favourite pizza parlour is under siege too" emphasises how

representation readily alters the perception of individuals to politics. The bias shows how Tim Mak perceives the conspiracy theory as a motivation for the Democratic Party to lose the presidential election. The strong modality “eminently winnable” convinces the reader that the theory was successful in its motivation to influence voters. Thus, the “conspiracy theory” was successful in its motivation to create a negative impact on the party, but whether it was the cause of the outcome of the presidential election is ambiguous. Furthermore, the hyperboles “innumerable stories about Pizzagate including Pizzagate going global” demonstrates how Tim Mak expresses the motivation and extent to which individuals go, to publicise their perceptions of politics. This over-exaggeration highlights how a particular representation of politics can easily be spread and transmitted across the world. This particular motivation to influence others of a particular view by creating a false pretence is effective in its impact. Also, the satirical tone in “Conspiracists began seizing on pizza-related emails” shows how trivial the allegation was, which has now been confirmed untrue. This demonstrates the absurdity of the theory and lengths individuals go, to represent and communicate their political views to others. Thus, emphasising the extremes people go, to represent their political views and influence others. Political motivations are effective in impacting the public to believe a certain view or perspective.

The impact of the deception and manipulation of truth further separates people and their politics. The disparity is clear within Wag the Dog where the public are completely unaware of the truth as the people within the political sphere continue to spin the truth. The colloquial language “who’s gonna find out? ... Who’s gonna tell ‘em?” accentuates how little transparency there is between politics and people. The misrepresentation of truth and lack of authenticity divides the people and their politics, which is emphasised through the casual and conversational manner when discussing their motivation to deceive the truth. Furthermore, the close up shot of the dog wagging its tail in the studio scene, is a metaphor for the media manipulating the truth throughout the film. The dog represents the politicians and the tail, their aids that are able to manipulate the public. This reinforces how the politicians are able to control and impact the public through the media and its techniques such as censorship and exaggeration. Also, the reference to the president as the “Big bird” uses intertextuality and a metaphor to satirise the president as a fictional character to ridicule and criticise how manipulated the image of the president has become. The parallel between the two illustrates how the president is produced and guided by producers, similarly to a television show. This manipulation of truth within politics show how the motivation of the president to conceal has resulted in his loss of power and authority within the political sphere, but regained his power as the president of the country. Furthermore, the voice over of Senator Neal talking while Brean is in the car reveals how the line between reality and truth is blurred when the media is constantly available. The media dominate the lives of people who passively take in the lies provided by the media, as in our everyday lives, the media bombard us with information, new stories through so many devices- tv, radio and social media.

Dissimilarly, in the Pizzagate news article, the impact of the motivation to misrepresent the truth is to sway the voters, and to dilute the quality of the politics to the people through the lens of the media covering “fake news sources” rather than ones that are more pressing to the American public at large. The metaphor “And for Podesta and other Democratic Party officials ... it is yet another slap in the face” stresses how the distortion of truth from the alleged ‘Pizzagate conspiracy theory’ led to the downfall of the party during the election. The comparison of losing the election to an image of violence reveals how brutal the manipulation and fabrication of truth has become for people and

their politics. The impact of the conspiracy theory was the loss of the American presidential election for the Democratic Party as they were alleged to have been part of the “sex-ring”. Also, “the conspiracy theory prompted a flood of death threats ... which began arriving over texts, Facebook messages and on Twitter.” This metaphor and tricolon reinforces how brutal and destructive the allegation of the “sex-ring” were. It also emphasises how the lack of truth and the need for people to question the validity of what they are reading, as otherwise it leads to detrimental outcomes. The impact of the theory were the hundreds of people who believed it was true and further seized to take action on what they had read. This is encapsulated through “Edgar Maddison Welch” who “went through the restaurant carrying an AR-15” and “fired multiple shots inside.” The informative tone and visual imagery illustrates the extreme to which individuals believe what they read in the media, especially when screens are the only form of representation of politics. An individual, who was unable to decipher the truth of the conspiracy theory, sought vengeance on what he read online. The extent of the detrimental allegation is evident in the use of imagery to describe the scene.

The motivation for individuals to manipulate and fabricate the truth to gain favour leads to the disconnection between people and their politics. Both the film Wag the Dog and the news article Pizzagate reveal both the reasons and detrimental impact of the political motivations of individuals who deceive and fabricate the truth.

