Lauren Willis
Outline for Senior Thesis Paper

**Topic/Title:** The human glitch??

**Thesis Statement:**
“The dependence of this age on virtuality is resulting in the unprecedented and irreparable deconstruction of some of the most basic human conditions.” Or pull together some of your other statements along this same trajectory. For example, “I will use the documented relationship of the family photograph as a means to…..”

I like this one as well---“*We must consider the possibility that our bodies could one day end up being reduced to crude mechanisms which are only utilized in the basest of ways-consumption, reproduction, etc. Individuality, nuance, tenderness, etc. all put aside for the sake of the virtual.*”

I. Introduction
   A. Where/how do abstract ideas like love, faith, justice, etc. exist in all of this?

II. The Body Object
   A. Our relationship to the physical world is in the midst of and seemingly irrevocable transition. It is becoming secondary to the intangible, virtual relationship to the world.
   B. The Surrogate
      1. How do we know when we are truly present?
      2. Confounding physicality.
      3. Base relationship of our bodies to function alone.

III. The Shifting Image
   A. Between the image and the lived experience
   B. Flat manipulateable image
   C. Decomposition of the Body
      1. decomposition verses the virtual breaking apart—the glitch

IV. Identity Construction
   A. Fabrication is more accessible than ever.
   B. The fluid self
   C. Change and development have always been constants, but they seem to have established a pace that is too rapid for us to keep up with. If this is the case, social rules regarding all of these new forms of
communication/relationships could be unreachable. No point of balance in which we can reclaim an identity.
D. Added layers make “who you are” more difficult

V. New Mythology-Is it Needed?
A. Virtuality as it’s own universe in the early stages
B. With the emphasis being more on the inconstant image rather than the physical being, it is easier to impose a narrative.
C. The gods would have to be silly. No room or seriousness.

VI. Why Humor?
A. Bergsen’s article
B. The absurd-- Humor is more approachable. The only doable response to something so far reaching.
   1. “A kind of blatant conundrum and absurdity”-Absurdity seems on of the only ways to rise above the clutter. And even then absurdity of often expected. Must be a very specific kind of absurdity. Destructive absurdity, violent absurdity, attractive absurdity, absurd absurdity...
C. Family Relationship
   1. I now have multiple relationships with people who are important to me, the physical and the intangible. How do these relationships affect/disrupt each other?
      2. As the image replaces the body are our relationships also being flattened/becoming more 2-dimensional?
      3. Family is the basis of society/the most basic of human relationships. How will the shift in societal relations affect/break down family relations? If this break apart what is left?