

A Quick Guide to the Modern/Postmodern Split

	TRAITS OF MODERNISM	TRAITS OF POSTMODERNISM
Nature of Knowledge	Trust in reason, objective reality, and scientific method	Tendency toward relativ- ism, subjectivism
Media and Society	Belief in progress, perfection of society, the Protestant ethic, and an emancipatory press	Spectacle of mass pro- duced images; dominance of entertainment values
Authorities	Trust in democratic institutions, hege- mony of producers and elites	Delegitimation of institu- tions, sanctity of pop- culturalism and popular entitlements; hyperconsumerism; dreams and heroes dead
Defining Metaphor in Film	Triumph of the professional, as depicted in <i>Madness of King George</i> , when the hired psycho- therapist puts the king in shackles.	Triumph of the image, as in <i>Crimson Tide</i> , when the fate of the world depends on a twentysomething technician fixing the sub's communication system; to make the situation "real" Executive Officer Denzel Washington tells the technician to think of him as <i>Star Trek's</i> Captain Kirk.
Slogan of the Age	"All the News That's Fit to Print" (<i>New York Times</i>)	"Here we are now/ Entertain us" (Nirvana) "Trust No One" (<i>The X- Files</i>)