Humanities Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The Matrix Assignment

*“Know thyself.”* ~ Plato (387 BCE) *“The unexamined life is not worth living.”* ~Socrates (400 BCE)

*“Vocational training is the training of animals or slaves. It fits them to become cogs in the industrial machine. Free men need liberal education to prepare them to make good use of their freedom.”* ~John Dewey (1916)

Instructions: As you watch *The Matrix*, take notes on parallels between the movie and “The Allegory of the Cave.” You will be turning these notes into an essay.

Who/what do each of the following represent?

1. Neo:
2. Morpheus:
3. Plugs for humans in the matrix:
4. Computer intelligences/machines:
5. “Matrix:”
6. Neo becoming physically ill:
7. the red pill versus the blue pill:
8. It is suggested in the movie that people should be unplugged before they reach a certain age, or they will never be able to accept the reality of the world around them. What is the parallel in “The Allegory of the Cave?”
9. Who is the Oracle in Greek society, and what is the connection between this classical figure and the Oracle in *The Matrix*?
10. Cypher decides he prefers the pleasurable lies of the Matrix to living the truth, which he considers too ugly and painful. What’s wrong with the Matrix, if what we feel is pleasurable? Is “ignorance bliss?”
11. What evidence can you find of the idea that “ignorance is bliss” and/or of “the machine” in history and in literature?
12. Does it make any difference whether you’re *actually* doing the things you think you’re doing versus whether you only *think* that you are? For example, if in every respect it seems to you that you’re in a good situation, isn’t it true, at least for you, that you *are* in a good situation?