Write an essay of **no more than 2000 words** on **one** of the following topics. Your essay must engage critically and directly with the work of **three** media theorists or writers on the course syllabus (Guillory, Hayles, Parikka, Benjamin, Chow, Sterne, Fraser, Moten and Harney, Rose and Lipsitz, Ellis, Miéville, Solie, Lessig—for the purposes of this assignment, the collaboratively-authored texts count as one). Your essay must have a clear, focused argument. Remember to be as specific and as direct as you can.

1. Erle C. Ellis writes that contemporary scientists have “begun examining the formations of ‘technofossils,’ from cities, roads, and oil rigs to the amazing diversity of manufactured plastic goods, from electronic casings to plastic bottles to microfibers” (148). What can media history and/or media archaeology contribute to the analysis of the technofossil, or, as Jussi Parikka writes, of the “fossils of forgotten dreams” (167)?

2. “Media archaeology starts with the archive” (Parikka 113). Discuss the ongoing transformation of the concept and configuration of the archive. How do emergent media affect the preservation and dissemination of knowledge or of shared memory?

3. Jussi Parikka notes how the science of telecommunications often concerns itself with “creating and managing communications as a signal—and hence removed from the human body and its energy” (99). Discuss the question of noise or of disturbance in media: how does mapping noise enable critical thinking about media and the human body?

4. Discuss the intersections of senses of public and private space, of the personal and the communal, in contemporary or historical media. How might a podcast, for example, enable us to think about the structure and affordances of a media commons?

5. Rey Chow invites us to consider what a history of “listening otherwise” might look or sound or feel like. How are different practices and modes of listening affected or shaped by the media or by the technologies we employ?

This assignment is due anytime before 11:59pm on **Wednesday, December 18, 2019**. You may submit electronically, if you wish, as an attachment to an e-mail message sent to my UBC address: **mcneilly@mail.ubc.ca**.