Podium Presentation
The Link between Cultural Media and Social Classes: An Analysis of Snowpiercer
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My analysis of Snowpiercer and its approach to social class is aimed at Americans who enjoy movies and television shows as forms of entertainment, but may not see and reflect on the negative portrayals of the lower classes. In analyses of popular culture, the representation of class in entertainment is often overlooked and thought to not pose a problem within our society. My project focuses on how entertainment forms tend to depict false stereotypes of the classes, champion the optimistic narrative of the American Dream and heavily influence society’s view on social classes. Reading articles that compare middle class sitcom families to upper class sitcom families, and that define the qualities of each social class on television shows and in movies, helped to develop my cultural critique. By comparing of the key characters of Snowpiercer and analyzing their traits, I emphasize the ways that the film dramatizes class conflict, and show how the influential upper class is viewed by the lower class. The film challenges the ideologies that an individual’s social mobility is based on merit alone and that there is an equal opportunity for each citizen to achieve upward social mobility. The representation of social classes in Snowpiercer shows that if class conflict is not addressed, it will ultimately destroy civilization.