

Review Essay – For 1 of the films viewed in class or on your own viewing

I. Introduction

Hook the reader: write an interesting, catchy lead to grab the reader's attention. Explain the significance of the title of the film **if applicable**. Consider using the tagline.

II. Credits

Indicate the year of release. Name the director and **possibly** mention any of his or her important or recent films. Identify the main characters along with the actors and actresses who portray them. **If feasible**, briefly connect to other important or recent films by these actors and actresses. Find an interesting way to transition through these details. Don't forget internal citations for this. IMDb is a good source.

III. Genre

Identify the genre(s) of this film and explain how this film fits the genre criteria. Use your notes on genre to find comparisons and examples that go **with and against** genre conventions. You may have to do additional genre research if you pick a film outside of our genre unit. If so, make sure you cite your sources.

IV. Plot

Identify the screenwriter(s) and/or source material. Make sure you include an internal citation. Identify the protagonist(s), the antagonist(s), and the main conflict(s). Write a **brief** summary of the plot without giving away the resolution to the conflict or the ending.

V. Theme and Lesson

Focus on **one** theme or lesson of the film. Indicate the general idea or insight about life the filmmaker makes in this film. Explain and provide film details in your analysis.

VI. Film Making Techniques

Pick one filmmaking technique that you think was particularly well done. Explain what and how it was accomplished. Feel free to research for assistance. Make sure you include any research in the Works Cited and as internal citations.

VII. Recommendation

Give the reader your overall reaction to the film. Write a recommendation to either see the film or avoid the film. Give at least three detailed reasons for your recommendation backed up with specific examples from the film. You can consider both the technical aspects of the film and your personal reaction to the film.

VIII. Summary and Zinger

Write a few general and concluding remarks about the film. Leave the reader with some lasting impression of the film. Write a catchy/memorable phrase that summarizes the film experience. Consider connecting back to the tagline.

Don't forget an MLA Works Cited page and internal citations where necessary.

Rubric for Film Essays

Name: _____

	Exceptional	Proficient	Approaching	Well Below
CONTENT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction with thesis • Ideas, analysis, & argument • Support & evidence • Conclusion 	<p>Engaging introduction that contains hook. Contains a strong, well defined thesis (last sentence of introductory paragraph!) Paper has direction</p> <p>Thesis well developed, interesting, clear, reasoned, insightful ideas. Ideas show critical thinking and analysis. Shows thorough knowledge of film topic, themes, and/or production values</p> <p>Detailed, accurate, Specific, convincing and appropriate examples/quotations from film. Fully developed throughout essay</p> <p>Stylishly and subtly returns to thesis. Extends main ideas, connects and comments on topic.</p>	<p>Coherent introduction contains some general background info. Clear thesis defined, provides direction for paper</p> <p>Thesis is clear and thoughtful. Some critical thinking and analysis. Shows knowledge of film topic, themes, or production values</p> <p>Sufficient, accurate examples from film. May not be fully developed throughout essay.</p> <p>Returns to thesis and summarizes main points and ideas</p>	<p>Intro is weak, doesn't give reader general background or hook. Thesis is not clearly stated, perfunctory, simple unclear.</p> <p>Thesis is simplistic, inadequately developed, lacking in relevance. Shows limited knowledge of film, theme, or production values</p> <p>Uneven, general, often brief Minimal examples used from film. Not fully developed throughout essay</p> <p>Summarizes previously stated information, effectively concludes but doesn't extend</p>	<p>Vague introduction, reader has little sense of what film is about. No clear thesis, incomplete</p> <p>Thesis is obvious, unsound, or inaccurate. No analysis Doesn't demonstrate knowledge of film, theme, or production values</p> <p>Vague, missing or inappropriate, Little or no examples from film used</p> <p>Absent, incomplete, Fails to conclude, adds nothing in many words</p>
ORGANIZATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follows Format of a good essay. Includes Topic Sentences and Transitions 	<p>Perfectly follows format of essay. Topic sentences clearly related to thesis and comprehensive. Fluid, engaging and varied transitions made between paragraphs</p>	<p>Follows format of essay. Topic sentences are related to thesis. Clear, functional "bridge" transitions made between paragraphs</p>	<p>Somewhat follows essay format. Topic sentences are a restatement of position, narrow or inaccurate, may not be appropriate for paragraph's content Awareness of transitions but seems mechanical or forced.</p>	<p>Doesn't follow format of essay. No topic sentences or not appropriate for paragraph's content. No clear connections between paragraphs</p>
EXPRESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sentence Structure • Vocabulary • Mechanics 	<p>Complete, varied, interesting, evident command of technique, style and grace</p> <p>Varied and sophisticated</p> <p>Contains minimal to no errors in conventions (grammar, punctuation, spelling, capitalization)</p>	<p>Complete and correct, Some style</p> <p>Effective, appropriate to task</p> <p>Contains few minor errors in conventions</p>	<p>Some variety, some errors present</p> <p>Adequate, uneven "Thesaurus syndrome"</p> <p>Contains errors that are distracting or cause confusion</p>	<p>Repetitious, fragments and run-on's frequent</p> <p>Limited, monotonous, inappropriate, uses lazy words</p> <p>Many convention errors which interfere with communication and/or meaning</p>
RESOURCES	<p>Works Cited complete and in proper format. Film is properly cited.</p>	<p>Works Cited is complete, with minor errors. Film is cited.</p>	<p>Works Cited is complete, not in proper format. Film is cited.</p>	<p>Works Cited is incomplete Film not cited.</p>

