

## Five Part Film Review

### A. Opening: Catch the Reader's Attention

Think about how advertisements sell films: "Trailers" show you a few seconds of the film to get you interested.

When you begin your film review, make your own "trailer." If you liked the film, then your trailer should make people want to see it; but if you didn't like it, the trailer should be something that shows why you didn't like it. Don't explain why you liked it or didn't like it; make the reader like or not like the film by what you describe. Begin your review by retelling an incident or moment from the film which you think captures the spirit of the film as you understood it.

Alternative: Begin your review with another kind of story or interesting fact--about one of the star actors, or about the making of the film, or about the director.

### B. Take Care of Business

Near the beginning of the review, you have to tell the reader the obligatory information: the title of the film, the director, the studio, the main actors, the year it was made, the rating, etc. This paragraph tells the reader the things they have to know about the film. Also, in one sentence or two, you should explain very simply what the film is all about--not necessarily what happens, but the overall concept or theme.

### C. Character and Plot Summary

What happens in the film? You shouldn't tell everything that happens - especially not the ending. But you want to summarize the basic plot of the film, in more detail than you do in the paragraph above.

One way to do this might be to write a few sentences about each main character. Make sure these sentences flow well together.

### D. A Key Moment, Technique, or Idea

In this paragraph, go into detail about something important that interested you about the film. If it was a musical, you should say something about the songs. Or if the soundtrack was particularly good, you could write about that. Or write more about one character who was really intriguing. Or write about a specific film making technique that the director used. Or retell a big moment from the film and explain why it is important. If you think the "idea" behind a film was really interesting, explain that idea. In this paragraph, you must go into depth about one aspect of the film.

### E. Evaluate the Film

Do you recommend this film or not? Who will like it? The most important thing here is that you must also explain *why* you are making your recommendation.

You must justify your opinion--and that opinion should grow out of what you write in the rest of the review. Give at least two reasons why you liked or didn't like the film.

# Rubric for Film Essays

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

	Exceptional	Proficient	Approaching	Well Below
<p><b>CONTENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction with thesis (PART A)</li> <li>• Ideas, analysis, &amp; argument (PART B AND C)</li> <li>• Support &amp; evidence (PART D)</li> <li>• Conclusion (PART E)</li> </ul>	<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>
<p><b>ORGANIZATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follows Format of a good essay. Includes Topic Sentences and Transitions</li> </ul>	<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>
<p><b>EXPRESSION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence Structure</li> <li>• Vocabulary</li> <li>• Mechanics</li> </ul>	<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 ons frequent</p> <p>Limited, monotonous, inappropriate, uses lazy words</p> <p>Many convention errors which interfere with communication and/or meaning</p>
<p><b>RESOURCES</b></p>	<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>