

Film Review Format

(Reel-to-Real) — show the reader the film by following the format below. Include the recommended number of sentences for each of the 7 areas indicated.

I. Introduction (3 – 6 sentences)

Hook the reader: write an interesting, catchy lead to grab the reader's attention. Explain the significance of the title of the film.

II. Credits (4 – 6 sentences)

Name the film and indicate the release date. Name the director and mention any previous or recent films by this director. Identify the main characters along with the actors and actresses who portray them. If possible, name any previous or recent films by these actors and actresses.

III. Genre (4 – 6 sentences)

Identify the main genre(s) of this film and explain how this film fits the criteria of the genre(s). Connect the film to other films with similar genres.

IV. Plot (5 – 7 sentences)

Identify the screenwriter and indicate:
the protagonist,
the antagonist,
and the main conflict (external / internal / both).

Write a brief summary of the plot without giving away the resolution to the conflict or the ending.

V. Theme (5 – 8 sentences)

Focus on the theme(s) of the film - not the plot, not the narrative. Indicate the general idea or insight about life the filmmaker makes in this film. Connect to other possible films in the genre, other films by the director, or other films viewed in class.

VI. Recommendation (10 – 12 sentences)

Give the reader your overall reaction to the film. Write a recommendation to either see the film or avoid the film. Give four to six reasons for your recommendation backed up with specific examples from the film. Include both the technical aspects of the film and your personal reaction and assessment of the film. Consider the script, filming, acting, special effects, music, direction, editing, and target audience.

VII. Summary and Zinger (3 – 5 sentences)

Write a few general and concluding remarks about the film. Include what you learned from this film. Leave the reader with some lasting impression of the film. Write a catchy/memorable phrase that summarizes the film experience.