

Final Project- Formal Film Analysis

A formal analysis of a film requires that the viewer breaks the film down into its component parts and discusses how those parts contribute to the whole. Formal analysis can be understood as taking apart a film, looking at the production values/parts, trying to understand the function and purpose of each one, and then putting the parts back together.

In order to do a convincing formal analysis, you'll need to be familiar with certain key terms (outlined for you in the production value notes). You must be able to understand and use the terms when you write your paper - especially if you hope to explain your process to another student or your teacher.

PRODUCTION VALUES ARE: EDITING (SHOTS/CUTS) , COLOR, LIGHTING, SOUND, COSTUMES & MAKE-UP, PERFORMANCE, ANGLE/CAMERA MOVEMENT, POINT OF VIEW, and FRAMING & COMPOSITION.

Structure

- Introduction: Include the obligatory information of actors, title, director, basic plot, and the production values you will be writing about in your five body paragraphs
- Five body paragraphs: State and define the production value you will be discussing. Describe the scene(s). Explain how the production value was used. Write about one production value for each paragraph.
- Conclusion. Restate the production values you discussed in your paper and sum up your best points. Leave the reader with some insight about the movie you've attained by analyzing the film.

Due Dates	Step	Pts. Earned/Pts. Possible
November 24/25	Present your film and production values in writing and gain approval	_____/20
December 4/5	Typed draft due to make sure you're completing the assigned task correctly	_____/50
December 10/11	Final paper due	_____/100

Standards for Grading Film Analysis Papers

There are standards for evaluating written work. Students' grades reflect how effectively the standards are met. The following clarifies for students the criteria that make the written film analysis excellent (A), good (B), satisfactory (C), or unsatisfactory (I).

The A paper possesses a predominance of positive qualities.

The introduction presents an insightful perspective on the film with a clear thesis that introduces the production values. The film title, year, director, screenplay writer, along with the actors creating the principal character roles, are credited in the introductory paragraph.

Each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence introducing the scene(s), the production value being analyzed, and an explanation of how the production value creates an emotional response in the audience. The sentences that follow cite specific examples and include details from the scene(s). The clincher statement reinforces the affective qualities of the scene(s). Each body paragraph has an orderly development of ideas without distracting errors.

A conclusion sums up the production values' affective qualities and reinforces the writer's perspective on the film.

No mechanical or structural errors exist, and **no secondary sources** of information are contained in the paper.

The B paper answers the assignment, and is a step up from the commonplace.

The film title, year, director, screenplay writer, along with the actors creating the principal character roles, are credited in the introductory paragraph.

Each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence introducing the scene(s), the production value being analyzed, and an explanation of how the production value creates an emotional response in the audience. The sentences that follow cite specific examples and include details from the scene(s). The clincher statement reinforces the affective qualities of the scene(s). Each body paragraph has an orderly development of ideas but lack the significance, the originality, and the imagination that distinguishes the A paper.

A conclusion sums up the production values' affective qualities and reinforces the writer's perspective on the film.

Some mechanical or structural errors exist, but **no secondary sources** of information are contained in the paper. This paper is thorough in development, but it lacks the style and sophistication of the A paper. This paper has few mechanical, grammatical, or structural errors. However, another type of B paper shows special flair associated with the A paper, but it may have so many errors which undercut the writer's achievement in imagination.

The C paper provides a baseline for minimum standards.

The film title, year, director, screenplay writer, along with the actors creating the principal character roles, are credited in the introductory paragraph.

Each body paragraph begins with a topic sentence introducing the scene(s), the production value being analyzed, and an explanation of how the production value creates an emotional response in the audience. The sentences that follow cite specific examples and include details from the scene(s). The clincher statement reinforces the affective qualities of the scene(s). The body paragraphs have an orderly development of ideas but nothing more.

A conclusion sums up the production values' affective qualities.

Mechanical or structural errors exist, but **no secondary sources** of information are contained in the paper. A good attempt to discuss the analyzed scenes in paragraph form is evident. This paper meets the basic requirements and may contain some mechanical, grammatical, or structural errors.

An I paper may be unsatisfactory for a number of different reasons.

A paper should receive an I if it has no discernable thesis or if it fails to address the assignment. This paper may contain misinformation or information from a secondary source (information from a website or information not analyzed in class). This paper lacks coherence because of poor sentence structure, punctuation, poor word choice, or faulty logic.