

Film Review

Name: _____

Instructions:

1. Choose a film
 - One that you absolutely love and think others should see
 - Or one that everyone else seems to love but that you find flawed
 - Or one that you simply feel represents your generation like no other
2. Watch the film
 - You may need to watch the film several times
 - You should take notes
 - You should stop the film during visually interesting scenes to study their components
3. Fill out the “Film Review Think Sheet”
4. Write a review
 - Your name, course title, and period should appear (single spaced) at the top left corner
 - Your essay’s title should be centered above the body of your paper in the same font and size
 - Margins should be justified and set at 1 inch
 - Lines should be spaced at 1^{1/2}
 - Your essay should be typed in 11-point Times New Roman font
 - Your essay must be a minimum of 400 words but **must not exceed one page**—no exceptions

7 Things to Consider

1. Write in present tense and in 3rd person.
2. If possible, view the film more than once. It’s easy to miss key elements with just a single viewing.
3. Express your opinion of the film, but support your criticism with evidence. A film review that comes across as biased opinion or a personal diatribe is a failed review; empty praise or unproven criticism is not the same thing as evaluation and analysis.
4. Avoid spoilers. Careless revelation of key plot points will ruin a reader’s enjoyment.
5. Judge the story. Are the character’s actions justified, and are their motives plausible? Is there an internal consistency to the way each person behaves, or do some words, thoughts, or actions ring false? Does the plot make sense? Is the story line logical? Is the narrative arc well shaped, or is it flabby, drawn out, or clichéd?
6. Rate the actors. Do they meet the expectations dictated by the plot and other story elements? If not, is it their own shortcomings, are they hampered by a poor script, or is there something about their performances that makes you believe the director is at fault? What could the performers, the screenwriters, or the filmmaker have done differently to make the movie work better?
7. Evaluate the technical elements—and, just as you would use proper literary terminology to analyze a book, use proper cinematic terminology while writing this review. How do the cinematography, editing, lighting, sound, and other components support or detract from the film? Is music appropriate and effectively employed? How do these elements contribute to or detract from the whole film?