

Film Interpretation Essay

Due: 11:59 PM EST Sunday of Unit 4

Source Materials:

1. Article: [“7 Rules for Writing Short Films”](#)
2. Short Film: [“The Most Beautiful Thing”](#)
3. Short Film: [“Room for One More”](#)
4. Short Film: [“Lava”](#)
5. Movie Review: [Variety Magazine’s Review of Concussion](#)

Background:

In the previous Units, you learned how to recognize key plot points and elements of Nonfiction articles and Poetry. You also delved into the world of the Fantastical Nonfiction, and used your resources and your writing voice to create and persuade. In this Unit 4 Film Interpretation Essay, you will scaffold further upon these concepts by interpreting a movie storyline and then writing both a creative and persuasive movie review.

Instructions:

- ☐ Read through all of the instructions prior to reading and viewing the resources.
- ☐ Read/watch all of the above resources.
- ☐ Select one of the three short films to review.
- ☐ Your audience for this review are people who have not seen the film.
- ☐ Your review will have the following components:
 - A clear introduction of which film you are using as well as any production details (year, director, production company, length etc.)
 - A thesis that states whether or not the movie is worth seeing and why. Be persuasive in your tone. Your units have ample resources on persuasive writing and thesis creation.
 - An OVERALL summary of the movie. Please do not spend too much time on plot points. What subjects does it cover? Describe the plot and setting. What issues does it raise? What do you see as the main purpose of the film?
 - What are the major themes of the film?
 - Evaluate the film for quality and interest. Comment on the screenplay, acting, direction. Are any literary techniques such as symbolism, character development and foreshadowing used? Are they used well? Note: Use the Raindance article for guidance.
 - Would a person be interested in this film? Why or why not?
 - Being a review, you are choosing to persuade others that your opinion on these interpretations is correct.

- A conclusion that ties all of your persuasion together, emphasizing the strengths and weaknesses of the film.

Requirements

- **Length and format:** 2-3 pages.
- **The title page and reference page** are also required, but they should *not* be factored into the 2-3 page length of the essay.
- It should also be double spaced, written in Times New Roman, in 12 point font and with 1 inch margins. Essay should conform to APA formatting and citation style.
- **Use the third-person**, objective voice, avoiding personal pronouns such as “I,” “you,” “we,” etc.
- Please use the above sources and any outside sources you need to create a properly-formatted APA reference page.
- Use APA format for in-text citations and references when using outside sources and textual evidence.
- **Please be cautious about plagiarism. If you are going to use outside sources, be sure to either quote or paraphrase them, and to use both internal and reference page citations.**

Be sure to read *before* you write, and again *after* you write, the rubric criteria by which your paper/project will be evaluated.

Evaluation Rubric for *Film Interpretation Essay*

CRITERIA	Does Not Meet Expectations (0-11 Points)	Below Expectations (12-13 Points)	Needs Improvement (14-15 Points)	Satisfactory (16-17 Points)	Meets Expectations (18-20)	Total Points (120 Points)
Introduction/ Conclusion	Introduction and/or Conclusion are not present.	Introduction or conclusion does not flow with the guiding ideas of the paper and/or does not introduce the film. Introduction or conclusion contains vague statements; needs development to be effective and/or does not attempt to persuade the reader.	Introduction provides context for the guiding idea but is obvious and/or basic. It might not fully introduce the film details or the guiding ideas. Conclusion Might restate the guiding idea, but recycles previous statements verbatim and/or does not offer much in the way of strengths and weaknesses of the film.	Introduction sparks some interest and effectively introduces the film and the review's guiding idea. Conclusion restates the guiding ideas and offers a fundamental insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the film	Introduction grabs attention, introduces the film, and provides meaningful context to the review's guiding idea. Conclusion effectively restates guiding ideas and offers insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the film.	/20
Summary Section	Summary Section is not present.	Provides little or no significant summary.	Provides a summary either much too short or much too long, may be vague or tell too much.	Provides a brief summary of film without an abundance of plot points and includes enough information to satisfy reader.	Provides an intriguing and general summary of the film that does not have an overwhelming amount of plot points and includes enough information to satisfy reader.	/20
Thesis and Persuasion	Thesis and/or persuasive writing are not present.	There is not a clear thesis and/or persuasive criteria is not met.	Thesis delivers an opinion that is unclear or vague and /or with little support throughout the review.	Thesis states opinion with some consideration of persuasive criteria and is supported throughout most of review.	Thesis clearly indicates opinion with consideration of persuasive criteria and is strongly supported throughout review.	/20
Film (textual) Support and Integration of Information	Textual support is not present.	Very little detail from the movie is given and/or integrated properly. Support may not relate to the thesis statement.	Some details from the movie are given and integrated properly. Topics are somewhat related to the thesis statement, but may lack evidence or focus to support them.	Details from the movie are present, although may not always relate to the thesis. Some integration of information is present.	Substantial details from the movie are well-developed, detailed, and directly related to the thesis. Thoroughly integrated information with a logical and consistent flow between ideas.	/20
APA Format	.APA format is not followed.	Few APA conventions are followed, and may be	Some APA conventions are followed, although not always correctly.	APA conventions followed with some errors evident throughout.	Free of many to all errors in APA conventions.	/20

		incorrectly formatted.				
Grammar, Mechanics, Voice	Grammar and mechanics' errors make the essay incomprehensible	Grammar, spelling, punctuation, and mechanics errors distract from the essay's purpose and focus.	Several errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling and mechanics present. First or second person voice might be used consistently.	Some spelling, grammar, punctuation and mechanical errors are evident. Third person voice might not be used consistently.	Free of punctuation, spelling, grammar, and other mechanical errors. Third person voice is used effectively and consistently.	/20
Total Points:						/120