

Movie Critique Assignment

After watching portions of two films (“Moulin Rouge” & “Seabiscuit”) you will select one scene from each film and critique them based on the criteria outlined below.

Your scene breakdown should have three sections:

- one commenting on the technical elements of the movie;
- one dealing with the artistic;
- and the other dealing with the synthesis of the two.

Technical Elements		Artistic Elements	
Camera Shots / Movements	Ex: Truck, close-up, focus shift, dolly	Plot Development	How does the scene you are breaking down fit into the overall narrative, storyline of the film?
Lighting	Ex: hard shadows, flat, uniform lighting, coloured light, single source / key lighting, natural light	Character Development	What does this scene tell the viewer about the characters? Are any new characters introduced? What are the viewers’ first impressions to their character traits?
Editing / Special Effects	Ex. Cross / inter-cutting, jump cuts, pace, flow, reaction shots, cut away, special effects	Theme	What is the movie about? What ideas are developed in the scene? Relate the ideas to ideas developed in the movie as a whole.
Audio	Ex. Soundtrack, dialogue, sound effects, background noise, levels	Mood / Tone	How does this scene make you feel about the characters, about what is going to happen, or what is happening?
		Setting	Where does this scene take place? How does this location impact on the storyline? Does the environment suggest plot development? Ex: Airport = leaving or arriving?

Project Expectation:

Watch the two movies in class and take some notes. Then you'll produce a final write-up using Google Docs that should include the following info;

- List the various technical & artistic elements you wish to discuss. No more than one page of rough notes for each movie, for a total of two pages.
- Make sure that you split them in to specific sections, one section for each of the technical and artistic elements you observed and wish to discuss... be sure to provide specific examples from each film.
- Think of it in terms of an essay... these are your observations, as long as you can back them up with an example and rationale you'll be fine.
- Finally, include one paragraph (no more than 1/2 a page, in complete sentences) on the synthesis (see below).
 - **Make sure to include the Start and End times for the scene you are choosing to critique.**

Synthesis:

Here's what your paragraph must cover; how do the technical elements compliment the artistic elements? Generally statements about synthesis will follow the format:

- *“The filmmakers used this (a description of a technical element) to achieve (description of an artistic element). It is effective because _____.”*

It is expected that you are able to recognize how the technical elements of the film / video work to give the viewer the complex information described here as artistic elements.

Evaluation:

- When you have completed the write-up as a Google Doc, create a shareable link and submit the file to Mr. Da Silva's Website.
- Make sure you use the following format when naming the file; “Last Name, 1st Name - Gr. 10 Movie Critique.”
- /10 – Technical & Artistic Elements (Knowledge) /10 – Synthesis (Thinking) /10 – Spelling & Grammar (Communication)