

Module 3 Film Review and Analysis

It should be 300 -600 words in length and will be worth 25 points.

Grading for this review will still follow these criteria from Section 4 :

IV. Review and rate the film Write a review of the film and what its strengths and weaknesses are in representing a historical time period and historical events. You must write a synopsis of the context of the film AND the real event and then compare the two by making an accuracy argument. (600-900 words or 2-3 pages)	<u>Developing:</u> The Review demonstrates little of the historical moment that is the focus of the film. The Review uses little to no evidence to corroborate, qualify, and analyze the presentation of the subject and the historical moment that the film portrays. The Essay fails to relate the film to a broader historical context or series of events, developments, or processes that occur around the historical moment of the film. The essay is cursory, short in length and / or poorly written.	<u>Proficient:</u> The Review demonstrates a understanding of the historical moment that is the focus of the film. The Review uses evidence to corroborate, qualify, and analyze the presentation of the subject and the historical moment that the film portrays. The Essay relates the film to a broader historical context or events, developments that surround the historical moment of the film. The essay is appropriate depth and in in length and well written.	<u>Advanced:</u> The Review demonstrates a complex and sophisticated understanding of the historical moment that is the focus of the film. The Review uses evidence to corroborate, qualify, and analyze the presentation of the subject and the historical moment that the film portrays. The Essay relates the film to a broader historical context or series of events, developments, or process that occur before, during, or continue after the historical moment of the film. The essay is comprehensive and very well written.
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See below

First Viewing of the film

Consider the following questions as you watch the film for the first time, and take notes.

1. What time period does the film take place in? What is the time span?
2. What, if any, known historical events were portrayed (year, place, people involved)?
3. When and where was the film set?
4. Think about
 - a. Political environment
 - b. Economic environment
 - c. Social environment
 - d. Physical setting
 - e. The norms of the time that are conveyed – class, race, nationalities, gender
 - f. technological innovations (weapons, modes of transportation, tools, etc)
5. What is your overall impression of the film? What did you like? What did you not like?
6. How did it inform your understanding of history?
7. Try to summarize the plot in 5-6 sentences.

Guidelines for Historical Film Review and Analysis – Argumentative Essay

Remember, when writing an academic essay in history, **personal pronouns are not used** (no “I”/ do not refer to yourself.)

Introduction

- grab the reader’s attention with your first sentence – interesting fact(s)
- background information - the name of the movie, the director, and the year of release – include any special comments on its release (was it an abridged or colorized version, was it in more than one part, was it part of a series, was it based on a novel, etc.)
- thesis – state your scope, purpose, direction for this review – what is your overall argument regarding this film and its historical benefit?

Body Paragraph 1 – Description of the Plot

- topic sentence – main idea or focus of the paragraph
- condense the main story line into 5-6 sentences

(How many body paragraphs your review has depends on how many topics you will be covering. This should vary depending on your arguments and your observations about the film.)

Body Paragraph 2 – FIRST area of focus

In the areas of focus use the themes and the analytical categories we have been discussing and that were included in your worksheets.

- topic sentence – focus of the paragraph
- discuss the analytical category depicted in the film
- compare and contrast what the movie depicts with what historians claim
- concluding sentence to make a transition to the next paragraph

Body Paragraph 3 – SECOND area of focus

In the areas of focus use the themes and the analytical categories we have been discussing and that were included in your worksheets.

- topic sentence – focus of the paragraph
- discuss the analytical category depicted in the film

- or compare and contrast what the movie depicts with what historians claim
- concluding sentence to make a transition to the next paragraph

Body Paragraph 4 – THIRD area of focus

In the areas of focus use the themes and the analytical categories we have been discussing and that were included in your worksheets.

- topic sentence – focus of the paragraph
- discuss the analytical category depicted in the film
- compare and contrast what the movie depicts with what historians claim
- concluding sentence to make a transition to the next paragraph

Body Paragraph 5– Evaluation of the film

- topic sentence – focus of the paragraph (an evaluation of the film on other areas, not history)
- for example you can consider some of the following (make sure to explain the reasons for the point of view taken)
 - pointing out the strengths and weaknesses of the movie
 - what was convincing and what did you see as inadequate inadequate
 - did it hold the viewer's interest uniformly
 - if the film was done many years ago, would it have handled the topic differently today – how, why, has our view of the historical time changed? Evolved?
 - what would have made the film better
 - would you recommend the film to another student

Conclusion

- summarize main points
- restate thesis
- leave your reader with something to think about (did the film make the viewer more aware of history or just confuse the issue?)