

As you work on Journals 5 & 6, consider this key note on analysis. A film review must contain summary, but that mode of writing should be a garnish, not the main dish. As you explain your view of a film, you must naturally summarize some key plot elements; however, your audience is not interested in a detailed summary. Indeed, for many that would kill any desire to see the film—let alone to read your writing. They are interested in your analysis: your explanations of why the film succeeds or fails or, and this makes for a thoughtful balance, why the film does both. Focus on the film's strengths and weaknesses. Entertain readers with your personal reactions and connections. Don't bore them with a tedious accounting of the film's plot: first this happened, then this; next. . . .

On that note, consider the journal below. The author's **thesis** is clear by the end, and she entertains us with her forceful opinions and evidence. I've highlighted **some of the best development** in a freewrite that is full of analysis—as a review should be. Should she choose this topic for Essay 3, the author will want to revise this rough start so that it sparkles with even more analysis and illustrations, specific examples drawn from the film, but this first effort is certainly a fair start, a first stab that might be revised and edited into a good review. Some of your journals are merely summary, like a book report. Some of your journals share this level of analysis. Some of your journals are even better.

Okay, so I saw Magic Mike at home recently so I could write a review on it. This film was directed by a man named Steven Soderbergh. I have never heard of this man, but after looking at his profile I realized I've seen some of his work. I did not know what to expect of Magic Mike.

The movie was supposed to focus on Channing Tatum teaching a young male how to make money and get the ladies. However, as the movie went on, there was not much being taught to the younger stripper. **In fact, it seemed as if Channing Tatum's character was going through a life lesson, so in reality, the plot should have centered on Tatum viewing his life and making changes to improve himself.**

I heard about the movie when it first came out as some of my coworkers couldn't stop talking about "seeing this sexy," but I thought I could wait to see it at home. Actually, I thought home alone would make for a better viewing. I mean let's be honest, mostly older women or lonely women went to see the movie because it was about male exotic dancers. I will admit that I wanted to see Channing Tatum. **The man is fine. But there had to be more than Channing in this film.**

There were a few dancers worth watching, but I was disappointed to see Matthew McConaughey playing the role of basically the ring leader. What a waste of talent. All he did was criticize his workers. He would promise them a cut of money, but seemed to step on their toes. I didn't understand his character. **Another stripper that stood out was the heavier set one called Tarzan. Wow did he fit the stereotype of a heavy set male: lazy and boring.** Tarzan did nothing to the amazement. Tarzan lacked the excitement and exotic features of a male stripper. He did not give his all when performing. **None of the actors had the "stripper" quality, other than looks and body type.**

I liked the fact that the movie did not portray the men completely naked as many thought, however, I just did not get what the purpose of the story was. Okay, a thirty year old strips so he

can earn a living. Saves up 13 grand, all for what? Just to give it to thugs who were trying to find someone he had met just two or so months early. I thinks not. **The movie occurred over a three or four month span, and I just cannot believe that all the things would occur in such short time.**

Watching the men strip proved to be more disappointing than exciting. I mean, is that really all we do is watch men strip? And the women in the movie were kissing all on the men, like hello, how many other women do you think they've kissed. The strippers weren't any better, sleeping with the women.

Then came the trying to find love with the new friends sister. Oh my gosh, the movie was unbelievable. **I enjoyed watching Channing Tatum dance, however, other than the movie lacked a theme and concept. There was not a purpose of the movie, and it was poorly written in my opinion. I know my review is jumping around, but that is literally how the movie is. Overall I give the movie a C. It was average.**