

## SL IB Film Summer Assignment: Introduction to Film Analysis

Welcome to IB Film Studies 2 (SL)! I can't wait to begin our discussions and appreciation of film! In IB Film Studies 2 (SL), you will complete 3 project-based IB assessments. Each assessment has different milestones and deadlines that you will need to meet throughout the school year. All of these assessments will be completed before the end of March. As a result, you must start the school year with a basic knowledge of film analysis. If you took Theater, Film, and Cinema production some of this will be a refresher.

Your assignment:

1. Step one: Yale Film Analysis guide
  - a. Go to: <https://filmanalysis.yale.edu/>
  - b. Read all 6 sections of the the film analysis guide
  
2. Step two: Film Analysis
  - a. Choose a feature film (PG-13 or younger, please) to watch and analyze.
    - i. Not sure were to start? Here are some suggestions:  
(Note: You are not limited to this list, these are just suggestions)

1. Vertigo	11. Life is Beautiful (1997)
2. Toy Story (1, 2, 3, or 4)	12. 2001: A Space Odyssey
3. Jaws	13. Spirited Away
4. Double Indemnity (1944)	14. The Truman Show
5. Raiders of the Lost Ark	15. Apollo 13
6. E.T. the Extraterrestrial	16. Million Dollar Baby
7. The Princess Bride	17. Avatar
8. Singin' in the Rain	18. The Blind Side
9. The Wizard of Oz	19. La La Land
10. Frankenstein (1931)	20. Hidden Figures
  - b. Practice your film analysis skills using what you learned in the Yale Film Analysis Guide and the worksheet that begins on the next page.
  - c. Important notes:
    - i. You will likely need to watch your chosen film for than once
    - ii. You will need to choose a 5 minute segment within the film that you watch multiple times.
    - iii. Your responses should include terminology and concepts covered in the Yale Film Analysis Guide
    - iv. You will need to conduct some basic research to complete this analysis. Please cite your sources.
    - v. You may type directly into the worksheet or print and write on it. Answers should be comprised of detailed complete sentences.
  - d. This is due on August 10, 2020. If you have any questions, email me at: [holly.bourquin@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:holly.bourquin@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

## Film Analysis

Film Title \_\_\_\_\_ Film Release Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
Country (where was it produced?) : \_\_\_\_\_ Genre \_\_\_\_\_

Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Screen Writer: \_\_\_\_\_

Cinematographer: \_\_\_\_\_ Editor: \_\_\_\_\_

Sound Designer: \_\_\_\_\_

As you view films, consider how the cuts, camera angles, shots and movement work to create particular meanings. Think about how they establish space, privilege certain characters, suggest relationships, and emphasize themes. In addition to shot distances, angles, editing, and camera movement, note details of the narrative, setting, characters, lighting, props, costume, tone, and sound. Also, if you chose an animated film you can still answer all of these questions – camera movement, angles, lighting, set, costume, etc. are all created in animation!

1. Who is the protagonist? Who is the antagonist?
2. What is the conflict?
3. What is the theme? (summarize in one sentence)
4. How is the story told (linear, with flashbacks, flash-forwards, at regular intervals)
5. What “happens” in the plot (Brief description, 3-5 sentences)?
6. How does the film influence particular reactions on the part of viewers (sound, editing, characterization, camera movement, etc.)? Why does the film encourage such reactions?

7. Is the setting realistic or stylized? What atmosphere does the setting suggest? Do particular objects or settings serve symbolic functions?
  
8. How are the characters costumed and made-up? What does their clothing or makeup reveal about their social standing, ethnicity, nationality, gender, or age? How do costume and makeup convey character?
  
9. How does the lighting design shape our perception of character, space, or mood?
  
10. How do camera angles and camera movements shape our view of characters or spaces? What do you see cinematically?
  
11. What is the music's purpose in the film? How does it direct our attention within the image? How does it shape our interpretation of the image? What stands out about the music?
  
12. How might industrial, social, and economic factors have influenced the film? Describe how this film influences or connects to a culture?

13. Give an example of what a film critic had to say about this film . Use credible sources and cite source.

Example: "The Shawshank Redemption Movie Review (1994) | Roger Ebert." All Content. N.p., n.d. Web. 24 June 2015.

## Part 2: Scene Analysis

Select one sequence/scene no longer than 5 minutes that represents well the whole film and shows relevant cinematic elements.

1. Describe this sequence. Where does it take place in the film? How does it represent the entire film? Why is it important to the film?
2. How many shots are in this selected sequence? Watch it several times taking note of changes with camera angles, transitions, etc. Describe:
3. In the selected scene, write 3-5 sentences for each of the elements. What did you observe in the sequence? How does each element contribute to your overall understanding of the film?:
  - a. Screenwriting (dialogue, character development, setting)
  - b. Sound Design (Music, effects, dialogue, intensity, motifs.)
  - c. Cinematography (composition, camera movement, angles, off-screen space, color, lighting, etc.)
  - d. Editing/Special effects (Pacing, rhythm, graphic matches, continuity, transitions, etc.)
  - e. Mise-en-scène. (Use of props, sets, costuming, lighting, etc.)