

Criteria for Evaluating a Film Essay

SCC Department of English & Humanities

EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION OF IDEAS

Introduction (10 points): Focus the reader's attention on the subject of the essay in a thorough paragraph of thought-provoking sentences leading effectively into the thesis statement. You may use the introduction to identify the film and its plot, theme, or film techniques that you will discuss in your essay. You may also introduce the theme of the film or its genre or cinematic technique and then identify the film in the body of your essay. In either case, your thesis should clearly state your point of view about the film, and then the remainder of the essay will support that thesis. If the thesis is not stated, as in a narrative or argument, that implies the main idea or builds to the main point in the conclusion, provide background or use other devices to stimulate interest in your subject and provide a direction for your essay.

Thesis (10 points):

Option 1: Clearly, specifically, and interestingly state or imply the main idea which the essay will explain or support.

Option 2: If appropriate, build to the main point stated or clearly implied in the conclusion.

An essay with a mark of "0" for this category will receive no credit.

Development (50 points):

Thoroughly support or explain the thesis or build to a logical conclusion in a series of vivid, interesting paragraphs, fully developed with reasons for your point of view and examples from the film to explain your interpretation. You do not need to write a narrative that retells the entire plot of the film, but if you may need to give a synopsis of events if doing so will help you clarify a point for your reader. If you are supporting your interpretation with ideas borrowed from outside sources, be sure that you paraphrase and quote using MLA format.

Unity (10 points): Make each sentence in a paragraph adhere to the main idea of the paragraph; make each paragraph adhere to the main idea of the essay.

Organization and Coherence (10 points): Arrange ideas in a logical order; use transitions and other cohesive devices to link ideas effectively within and between paragraphs. Be sure to refer clearly to paraphrases or quotations from the literature.

Conclusion (10 points): Logically complete the development of the thesis or build to the main point of the essay.

Creativity: Up to 5 extra points may be awarded for creative expression.

EFFECTIVELY WRITTEN SENTENCES (1 point deducted per error)

Excessive Major Errors: Four or more of any one of the following types of sentence or grammar errors will result in no credit for the essay: fragments, comma splices, fused sentences, and subject-verb disagreement.

Sentence Structure: Avoid errors in subordination, coordination, and parallelism. Avoid sentence fragments, comma splices, and fused, incomplete, or awkward sentences.

Grammar and Usage: Avoid inappropriate verb or pronoun use, subject-verb or pronoun-antecedent disagreement, unclear pronoun reference, misplaced or dangling modifier, inappropriate shift in person or tense, redundancy, imprecise language, or incorrect usage.

Spelling and Capitalization: Avoid errors in spelling and capitalization.

Punctuation: Avoid misuse or omission of the apostrophe, brackets, colon, comma, dash, ellipsis, exclamation point, hyphen, parentheses, period, question mark, quotation marks, semi-colon, slash, underlining, or italics.

ESSAY GRADE A=100-93; B=92-85; C=84-77; D=76-70; F=69-0 points

