



Model for Writing a Film Review

	Phrases to start you off...
<p>Introduction Begin with a catchy, imaginative phrase or scene description from the film which sums up one of its central ideas. Introduce the name of the film, director and story source, as well as your thesis (opinion) about the film's worth.</p> <p><i>What genre is the film? What are its special points of interest? Were any awards given to this film (eg. best actress/special effects etc.)?</i></p>	<p>The camera pans...and so begins one of the most beautiful films...</p> <p>The film, based on a true story, is...</p> <p>Directed by...this film is notable for...</p> <p>Awarded...this film is...</p>
<p>Plot Briefly outline the story of the film in about five or six lines.</p> <p><i>Is the plot important, entertaining or realistic? How is the story structured? Does it move forwards steadily in time, or does it use flashbacks? Was this effective?</i></p>	<p>Told through the eyes of...this film tells the classic story of...</p> <p>An outstanding film, ...describes the events of...</p> <p>Set in...this is a most involving film...</p>
<p>Screenplay Consider the characters of the film: how do the actors present these characters?</p> <p><i>Are the characters realistic and believable? Are they meant to be? Does the film emphasise character or is it more concerned with action or special effects? How successful is the casting of the characters and their performances? Can you detect any faults in the acting? (eg over-acting) In what other films have the lead actors appeared? Are they a versatile actor?</i></p>	<p>At the centre of the story is...</p> <p>The character of...is drawn as...is a sensitive portrayal of...</p> <p>A depth of character is ignored in favour of an action-packed... ...plays an unforgettable/believable... ...gives a strong/flawless performance... ...is over-acted, causing the viewer to devalue the theme of... Demi Moore (Ghost, Indecent Proposal) is...in her role as...</p>
<p>Production details How the production details develop the themes and characters of the film.</p> <p>Opening & Closing Scenes – <i>What impact do they have?</i> Cinematography – <i>How are colour and lighting used to promote emotional effects or to appeal to the viewer?</i> Editing – <i>Has the editing achieved the right pace and put the shots together in the most effective way?</i> Sound effects & Music – <i>Consider the quality and imaginative use of dialogue, music and other sound effects.</i> Special effects – <i>What were they? Were they realistic?</i> Costuming – <i>Consider suitability and authenticity.</i> Use of Props & Symbols – <i>Did they add to the theme?</i></p>	
<p>Theme Identify the main conflicts and look at the way they are introduced and built up.</p> <p><i>What is the central theme of this film? Does the film convey a useful message for the viewer, or is it purely entertaining?</i></p>	<p>The film explores the theme of...</p> <p>Through the portrayal of the lives of...the film reminds us... ...is a compelling study/ drama of... ...a film that challenges us to...</p>
<p>Conclusion <i>What age group/audience is the film designed for? How would you rate the film (from one to four stars)? Which part of the film was most striking? Why? Suggest any changes that you would make to the character, settings, plot, cinematography or music to improve the overall effect of the film. Compare this film with others of the same genre/type. How does it rate?</i></p>	<p>This film will appeal to...</p> <p>Many people will feel that...by...is a sensitive drama about...</p> <p>Beautifully shot, superbly acted...is a great film for many reasons. Not the least of these is...</p>