

Worksheet for Analysis of a Motion Picture

Prepare a written report on the film by answering these questions about it.

A. BEFORE WATCHING THE FILM:

- Title of the film.
- Bibliographical data (your teacher will provide this for you): List films by title, and include the name of the director, the location, the film studio or distributor, and its release year. Example: *The Dark Knight* [Motion Picture]. Nolan, Christopher (Director). United States: Warner Brothers, 2008.
- List three concepts or ideas you might expect to see in this film, based on its title.
- List three people (or types of people) you might expect to see, based on the title.

B. AFTER WATCHING THE FILM – QUICK ANALYSIS:

- Type(s) of motion picture (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Animated cartoon	<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign-language film, subtitled
<input type="checkbox"/> Combat film	<input type="checkbox"/> Newsreel
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentary film	<input type="checkbox"/> Propaganda film
<input type="checkbox"/> Feature film	<input type="checkbox"/> Training film
<input type="checkbox"/> Foreign-language film, dubbed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (identify)
- Physical qualities of the motion picture (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Animation	<input type="checkbox"/> Dramatizations of events
<input type="checkbox"/> Archival documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Live action
<input type="checkbox"/> Archival film footage	<input type="checkbox"/> Music
<input type="checkbox"/> Archival photographs	<input type="checkbox"/> Narration / voice-overs
<input type="checkbox"/> Black and white filmography	<input type="checkbox"/> Special sound effects
<input type="checkbox"/> Color filmography	<input type="checkbox"/> Special visual effects
- Consider how camera angles, lighting effects, music, narration, and editing choices have contributed to the creation of “atmosphere” in this film. What would you say is the mood or tone of this film? List specific examples to show how mood or tone was created.

C. AFTER VIEWING (OR REPEATED VIEWING) OF THE FILM:

- Name the expected concepts or people you listed in Exercise A that you did indeed discover when you watched the film.
- What message(s) would you say this film is trying to get across?
- How effective was the film at making its point? As a tool of communication, what are its strengths and weaknesses?
- What response do you think the filmmakers wanted from the audience? Were they successful in getting such a response?
- Does this film take aim more at the viewers’ sense of reason or emotion? Do you agree with the director’s choices? What might you have done differently?
- What did you learn from the film? What questions are left unanswered? Did the film present all points of view fairly? What individuals or groups might disagree?
- What information did you learn about this event that would not have been communicated as effectively in a written document? Be specific.