

## WRT 205 Film Review Mini Assignment

### Directions:

You will write a **½-page film review**.

Use the format for essays found in the syllabus.

Include **several** of the different components listed in the rubric under *Structure*, including the ones you find most important, and do them well. Most importantly, try to capture the feel of the genre of film reviews in your tone and your content, so that you can understand the differences between 1) a personal response/film “diary,” 2) a film review, and 3) an analytical film essay.

Remember that this is a movie review not an academic essay.

Category	Criteria for evaluation
<b>Structure</b>  <b>30%</b>	<b>Contains all of the following important elements:</b> Evaluation ( <b>key</b> ): <b>answers the big question: should the reader see it?</b> Gives a <i>rating</i> (how many stars?) Describes the film ( <i>plot summary</i> ) without giving away key parts of the film to readers who have not watched the film yet (no spoilers or details about later scenes) Includes <i>major characters, actors</i> and <i>director</i> (spelled correctly) Contains some discussion of <i>film form</i> at a broad, general level <i>Sample scene</i> : briefly recounts one or more scenes from the film to show readers what typical scenes from the film will be like Puts film in <b>context</b> : provide <i>basic historical background</i> (time, place, etc.); identify the <i>genre</i> (romantic comedy, thriller, western, etc.) Makes at least one <i>comparison</i> (think about similar movies/other Spielberg films/how the film fits its genre)
<b>Content</b>	General assessment of the <b>overall quality of the description and evaluation</b> Provides clear reasons for the reviewer’s evaluation Raises both <i>good points and bad points</i> about the movie Discussion of film form is interesting and meaningful Usefulness and relevance of the information provided All aspects of the review make sense/work together in a clear, logical way
<b>Voice/Style</b>	Picking the right voice/tone for a movie review: A formal, serious tone: <i>authoritative, knowing but not too technical</i> (your writing needs to be accessible to regular filmgoers; explain your vocabulary) and also <i>critical</i> (willing to make a judgment; presenting oneself as an expert) A more <i>advising</i> and <i>judging</i> tone, instead of an academic or analytical tone—you are asking “Is the film good or bad?” and “Should you see it?” instead of “How does it work?” or “What is its meaning?” Avoid “they” “you” “I” and “in my opinion.” [Say, “This movie deserves two stars,” instead of “I give this movie five stars.” The whole point is to give your expert opinion, so write opinions without saying “I think” “In my opinion”] Focus on the potential viewer, not you and your experience of the movie (not a diary of your viewing experience but what your reader should expect) Use <i>bold, vibrant descriptive language appropriate for reviews</i> : “dull, plodding, slow, masterpiece, unnecessary, brilliantly, faults, inspiring, vividly, effective, eye-opening, flawed, touching, thunderous, heart-pounding” [not bland or vague words like “nice, interesting, good, bad”] Avoid discussing <u>accuracy</u> or <u>true-ness</u> : say “convincing” or “realistic” [as a film reviewer, you care whether it <i>looks/seems</i> true, not whether it <i>is</i> true—that’s for historians to decide elsewhere]
<b>Correctness</b>	Proper punctuation for any quoted dialogue; italicize names of films Clarity / No patterns of error in narration—grammatically correct Watch out especially for three areas of correctness: <b>1. Use present tense for literature/film</b> : “Spielberg shows” “Schindler cries” “The camera zooms in” [use past tense only for actual history] <b>2. Avoid apostrophe errors</b> : Nazis is the plural of Nazi, not Nazi’s <b>3. Capitalize proper nouns</b> like “Jews” and “the Holocaust”