

WRITING
Ashline

Writer's Name _____

Reviewer's Name _____

PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP FOR FILM ANALYSIS ESSAY

Please exchange papers with a partner and read his or her paper carefully. Underline the thesis and topic sentences. Honestly answer the following questions as carefully as you can and do so holistically rather than individually.

**1. Does the title arouse interest and forecast the problem to be addressed?
How might the author improve the title?**

The author wrote the title as "Film Analysis of *Two Days, One Night*". The title of the essay does not forecast the problem that will be addressed. It is more of an illustration of what the assignment was. According to the topic sentence, the thesis of the essay is about the ruthlessness of capital society and how an individual's grit can help him/her overcome adversity. Thus, the title may be improved in a way that hints at this thesis. Using a proverb or famous quote could be an effective way of writing an eye-catching title that also conveys what the essay is about. For example,

2. How does the introduction capture your interest, explain the film to be addressed, and suggest why the film is significant for analysis?

The author uses a plot summarization as an introductory paragraph. Since it is only a plot summary, there isn't much of a component to capture a reader's interest. However, it does help the reader to have a better understanding of what happened in the film, thus helping the reader understand the analysis that comes after. Also, the introduction could be seen as suggesting the significance for analysis since the plot itself illustrates a problematic situation aroused due to the cruelty of a capitalistic society. However, it's more of a layout of the problem rather than explaining the significance of this issue.

3. Does the introduction conclude with the writer's thesis? Is the thesis surprising? Does the thesis cover what the writer takes to be the theme of the film? Do you consider the thesis to be disputable, i.e. worthy of defending in an essay? How might the author improve the introduction?

The introduction concludes with the thesis which explains how the film *Two Days, One Night* illustrates the cruelty of capitalistic societies and how people should never give up in the face of adversity. The thesis is rather straightforward and predictable considering the plot of the movie. As seen in the plot in the introduction, the protagonist is at the verge of being fired due to the employer's greed but never gives up hope and consequently prevails. Thus, the theme of the movie would be "The reality of

consumerism and the hopefulness of humanity”. The author’s thesis is exactly about this, and she further explains how the author explains what kind of “cruel reality” existed within the film and shows how the protagonist prevailed such situations, so it can be said that the author’s thesis does cover what she takes to be the theme of the film. Since the thesis the author wrote was the intended message of the film, it is worthy of defending in the essay. However, since the intended theme was too obvious, it could be a good idea to make the thesis of the essay an analysis of whether or not the movie conveyed this message in the most effective, though-provoking, or convincing way. Since an introduction’s purpose is to capture the reader’s attention and try to convey the theme of the movie in an entertaining, effective way, it is advisable not to use the plot summary as an introduction. Rather, it should work as a “hook” that captures the audience’s mind, such as introducing the history of capitalism in France (the country the film is based on) or perhaps introduce a real-life account in which the cruelty of capitalism was exposed.

4. How is the essay developed in terms of coverage of literary and perhaps semiotic concepts of interpretation? Do you find it deficient in its coverage?

There are a few points in which the author covers some literary concepts of interpretation. First, in explaining what kind of hardships the protagonist must have gone through, the author links and interprets the situation with regard of the protagonist’s personality. The author evaluated the protagonist to have high self-respect, and therefore analyzed that one of the hardships she would have experienced was having to ask her colleagues to help her out. Second, the author uses the protagonist’s wardrobe to interpret the mindset and perspective of the protagonist. The author writes about how Sandra(the protagonist)’s clothes usually consist of bright colors with notable decorations. The author points out how this subtly reflects how Sandra maintains a positive mindset throughout the movie. As such, the author interprets the character or some visual techniques of the film to find literary symbolism within the film. These points do cover main points of analysis in the movie, however it would have been better if the author was able to find literary devices or symbols that would have reflected the general thesis (of how capitalism is oppressive of the laboring class).

5. How is the essay organized? Does the writer helpfully forecast the whole, place points before particulars, use transitions, and follow the old/new contract? How might the author improve or clarify the organization?

The essay is composed with one introduction paragraph, two body paragraphs, and the concluding paragraph. The two body paragraphs each try to explain the two points made in the thesis. Thus, what will come in the next paragraph is foreseeable, and the consistency throughout the essay is very good.

However, there are some points to improve regarding the essay.

1. No detailed “points” are mentioned before explaining the particulars. So, the reader has a hard time knowing whether or not the author has moved onto a new point in her argument. For example, on the third line of the third page, the

author talks about how the protagonist would have feared losing her job. Then, without any indent or any indication that she moved onto a new discussion point, the author suddenly talks about why Sandra had a hard time asking her colleagues about the revote. It would have been better for the author to first, indent new points so that the reader knows that she is now talking about something else, and second, illustrate all the points she will make prior to explaining the particulars so that the readers know why she is talking about a certain thing.

2. The lack of use in transitions makes it hard to understand the detailed flow of the essay on a sentence-to-sentence basis. For example, on the ninth sentence of the second page, the author does not add “For example” before showing examples of how “reality is very divergent from our expectations” (line 9). Also, sometimes certain words are used incorrectly when showing the relation between two sentences or points. For example, the author incorrectly uses the word “paradoxically” on the bottom fifth line of page three to explain a cause and effect situation. This problem could be solved by actively using correct transitions to show a change in point or relation of two points or more.
3. There are a few sentences in which the author talks about the technique of the shot (ex. Long shot, medium shot, close-up etc.). However, these sentences are inserted in which the flow with the previous and subsequent sentence does not match at all. These sentences almost seem irrelevant to the whole context. Also, the author simply states, for example, “a long shot was used on this scene”, but does not always explain the effect of the technique or why it was used. It would have been better if the author gathered these sentences which illustrate the used effects and explain the respective reason and effect of the shots.
4. The topic sentence of each body paragraph needs to seem more like a topic sentence. The topic sentences don’t seem like a sentence that kicks off the start of a paragraph, but rather seems like a sentence you’d find in the middle of a paragraph. Also, the first paragraph mainly talks about the harsh reality of corporations and capitalism. However, the topic sentence only seems to point out the reality portrayed in the movie (rather than what the movie is portraying about the reality), and focuses more on the protagonist’s individual suffering when the paragraph is about a more general topic. This could be improved by using transitions such as “First”, “Second”, and trying to broaden the topic sentences to be about more general points rather than specific parts.

6. Where does the author quote from the film (or use specific references to it)? How is each of the author’s points grounded in the text? What recommendations do you have for improving the author’s use of supporting details?

The author uses several scenes and points in the movie to support her claim. For example, she illustrates the conducts and dialogue of the employers in the film to explain how, in the employers’ views, material and money trumps the employees’ human dignity. The author also took a direct quote from the movie on the bottom

eleventh line of the third page, to explain how the protagonist felt about her devastating situation. Generally, the author uses examples/direct illustrations of some scenes to build on her argument. It seems that she's following the chronological order of the film and explaining what she derived from each situation within the scene. There is one general point of improvement.

- On some parts it's hard to distinguish whether or not the author was referencing the film or talking about a general truth. Because there are so many scenes the author is referencing from, it would be much better if the organization and distinction between the author's opinion/statement about reality and the usage of certain scenes from the film was clear. For example, on the first body paragraph, it is sometimes hard to distinguish whether or not the author is making a statement about the reality of capitalism or if she's referring to the situation in the film. It is recommended to first make a general claim about the reflected reality and then use "For example" to illustrate what kind of scene was used to show this reality.

7. Where do you find the analysis and interpretation unconvincing or superficial?

Superficiality

The thesis of the essay itself seems superficial since the author's thesis was the theme the film obviously intended to convey. Also, this theme is a broadly used and talked about theme that several literary works discuss about. Also, the analysis and interpretations of the film also mostly stop on a superficial level as she talks about emotions of certain characters that would be obvious to any viewer and explain why the character was having a hard time. However, there are still some points where depth can be seen as she mentions the change in tone of background music to explain how the situation of the protagonist is getting better. She also mentions the change in type of clothing for the character, or how the personality of the character would have affected the character's view on the situation. However, as mentioned before, since the theme itself is too obvious, it would have been recommendable to try and analyze if the methods used in the film were efficient and effective enough to convey the theme of the movie in a precise manner.

Unconvincing parts

As mentioned before, the author inserts parts about the type of shots (Long shot, medium shot etc.) that are used in certain scenes to support some of her points about the movie. For example, when talking about how the protagonist's colleagues were not able to support the protagonist, she mentions how a medium shot was used to show the conversations between the protagonist and her colleagues. However, there are about three attempts such as this, however there is no explanation as to *why* these types of shots were used and what kind of effect they had in supporting the point. Also, the main point of the second body paragraph is that the protagonist Sandra was experiencing hardships, but was able to prevail because of good will. However, there is no clear relationship that is illustrated between Sandra's will to never give up and the positive outcome of the situation. The reason why Sandra at least got a few votes for her

reinstatement seemed to be more related to the individual situations of the colleagues rather than because Sandra kept on trying to solve her situation. The relationship between these two components within the film needs to be further clarified.

8. Summarize the essay strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

- The thesis of the essay is parted into two points, and each point is illustrated with one body paragraph. Thus, there is good organization in a broad sense
- Many examples of scenes from the film are used to prove a point of the author
- The points that the author is trying to make are quite straightforward and not difficult to understand

Weaknesses

- Certain minor grammatical errors and incorrect use of vocabulary made it hard to understand exactly what the author was trying to convey
- It was hard to distinguish between the point that the author was making and the examples used to prove that point
- The thesis of the essay was superficial. More depth could have attempted for the essay
- The plot summary lacked explanation for the reader's full understanding of the film
- Lack of organization was seen when moving on from one point of the essay to another
- The logic of some points made in the essay was not fully explained. (ex. Second body paragraph)
- The usage of certain shots were only introduced, not explained
- A plot summary was used in place of the introduction
- The title was only an illustration of what the assignment was

9. Suggestions for revision.

- 1) The plot summary starts with "The movie starts when Sandra gets a phone call" without explaining who Sandra is or what her job is. It would be better to start with an explanation of who she is so that the reader can understand the situation she is in.
- 2) Second line of the first paragraph, add a "s" to the word "workmate". Same line, use the word "informs" rather than "reports"
- 3) During the plot summary explain why the employers wanted Sandra gone
- 4) On ninth sentence of first page, explain *what* "her colleagues were also cutting in fine". Does it mean they were also in the brink of being fired?
- 5) Rewrite the topic sentence of the first body paragraph so that it has a more general statement about capitalism.
- 6) Second sentence of first body paragraph is grammatically incorrect. Change "judge" to "judging" and add comma beside the word "sick leave".
- 7) Last line of first page, rephrase "Sandra and her coworkers are responsible for the revote." This sentence makes it seem that the coworkers are to blame for Sandra getting fired.

- 8) First line of second page that starts with “It has been people” is grammatically incorrect. It needs to be rephrased. It is difficult to understand what the author is talking about.
- 9) The second and third line of the second page that starts with “These laborers have always put up with” is also grammatically incorrect and difficult to understand. Needs to be rephrased.
- 10) On sixth line of second page, change “that Company owner does not” to “that the company owner in the movie does not”.
- 11) Change “pretended” to “pretends” in line seven of second page.
- 12) change “in relation to” to “on” on line eight of second page.
- 13) Rephrase “is very divergent from” to something more understandable on line nine of second page. Also add a “For example” before the line “The movie” on the same line.
- 14) Add “the” on the tenth line of second page before “bonus and thanked Sandra”
- 15) Starting from bottom line ten of the second page, the author starts using an example of the colleague Hisham. His example seems irrelevant to the point being made. Delete or rephrase.
- 16) On bottom ninth line of second page, the sentence that starts with “The director intended” should be moved to the next line since it is introducing a new point.
- 17) Rephrase “who are guilty as the company owner live well” of bottom line six on page two. Also rephrase “who live faithfully at every moment” on the same sentence.
- 18) Delete “the capital” to “capital” on bottom fourth line of page two.
- 19) The phrase “her colleagues were not allowed to support or avoid Sandra” on bottom line five of page two seem like a paradox. Rephrase.
- 20) The last two sentences of the first body paragraph should be rephrase so that the delivery is better.
- 21) Rephrase the third line of page three which starts with “it was terrible even to imagine going back to the past”
- 22) The sentence that starts with “When I watched this movie” of line four on page two should be moved to the next line since it is a new point being introduced.
- 23) On line six of page three, the sentence starting with “However, I realized that imploring anything” should be further explained. What is the grounds of the author realizing this?
- 24) change “would be so” of line nine on page three to “was”
- 25) The second body paragraph is about the difficulties the protagonist experienced. The organization should be better by explaining exactly what kind of difficulties existed and exactly how she overcame them.
- 26) Change “his” to “her” on bottom eleventh line of page three.
- 27) Change “had” of bottom tenth line of page three to “felt”
- 28) The transition between the two sentences on bottom line nine of page three is awkward. Rephrase or add transitional phrases.
- 29) Change “the urgent center” to “the emergency room” on bottom sixth line of page three.
- 30) The word “paradoxically” is the wrong vocabulary for bottom fifth line of page three. Also, the sentence that has this word should be revised so that there is a clear cause and effect between the protagonist’s effort and the outcome of that effort.
- 31) Change “either” to “too” on last line of page three.
- 32) Inadequate wording on first line of fourth page, saying “recovered her disfigured

self-confidence”. This could potentially mean that she has regained her disfigured self-confidence, meaning a negative outcome. It would be better to rephrase this part.

33) The transition between the two sentences on the first line of the fourth page is awkward. A better connection between the change of music within the film and the change in the protagonist’s mood should be established.

34) The sentence starting with “Sandra’s willingness to step in” on the fifth line of page four seems a little irrelevant with the context of the paragraph. If the author wishes to elaborate more about this point, more detail and explanations should be added.

35) On line ten of page four, who does “They” indicate? Clarification needed.

36) The author introduces a situation in which the protagonist was offered a dilemmatic choice concerning her conscience and her profit on the bottom line twelve of page four. However, more explanation will be needed for this part since this situation was never mentioned in the plot summary and the reader may have a hard time understanding exactly why this is a dilemma and what this shows about the protagonist.

37) Change “to” to “by” on bottom tenth line of page four.

38) Change “in” to “by” on bottom ninth line of page four.

39) The phrase “minuscule protest” on the bottom sixth line of page four is ambiguous in what it indicates. Rephrase.

40) On the bottom second line of page four, the concluding paragraph starts with “The movie *Two days One Night* reflects the reality just as it is”. It would be recommended to explain what kind of reality the film is talking about. Perhaps add “(the reality) of capitalistic societies”.

41) The last sentence starting in the last sentence of the fourth page says “In other words, materialism prevails human dignity.” Considering the context, add “the film shows” after “In other words,”.

42) Change “shy of” to “shyly against” on the second sentence of page five.

43) Should rephrase “put up with overcoming the ordeal” on the second sentence of page five and “she tried her best against the uncertainty” on the third sentence of the same page. They are either grammatically incorrect or ambiguous in meaning.