

## EXPANDING THE FILM ANALYSIS ESSAY INTO A FILM ANALYSIS RESEARCH ESSAY

The first task to engage in before expanding the film analysis essay into a research essay is to extensively revise the film analysis essay. Download and print out the final version of the essay from YSCEC with all of my comments and marks. Be sure to print out all of the sheets, including the comments and descriptions/explanations of the marks. It might be 20-30 pages in length, but you can print on two sides if you wish. Then, over the course of several days, carefully annotate the paper by hand, writing in all the changes required, as presented in the marks and comments. After you fully annotate your essay, then retype it or transfer the changes to the file of the essay. Keep the annotated paper to submit along with the final version of the film analysis research essay. This will constitute proof that you went through the entire process.

The next stage is to determine which sources would augment your discussion appropriately (you may, of course, start collecting sources before you begin your revision). You have to think of a research essay as equivalent to entering a conversation among scholars, critics, or peers. You have a position on the film already. You have identified what you take to be the implicit meaning of the film and have defended that claim by the use of thoughtful proofs developed in your essay. Now, how does it fit in with the discussion already taking place about the film? Can you locate a scholarly discussion about it? Is the film old enough to have such a discussion, or is the film relatively new so that the only conversation about it is in the form of published reviews or remarks in online communities? The answer to this question will determine the scope of your research. You may investigate a potential scholarly discussion on the film by using the Google Scholar search engine or check the databases in the library.

You need at least six sources for this assignment, including the film itself. Of the six, at least three should be print sources or electronic analogues of print sources (like, for example, database articles from our library's subscriptions, in the event that the actual print sources are not held on campus). Two options for print sources can be the texts by Monaco and the three authors of *Writing About Movies* if you wish. If you plan to also use Internet sources, carefully interrogate them to ensure reliability. Unlike print sources, Internet sources are often untrustworthy or of dubious quality due to lack of editorial oversight or peer review. Be very careful not to include such sources for your paper. Otherwise, such choice will be reflected on your evaluation.

Collect as many sources as possible and then determine how they may fit for the expansion of your film analysis essay into a research essay.

1. Do they help to supplement an argument or presentation you are making in your essay?
2. Do they provide an opposing view to your interpretation that you can try to disprove or argue against?
3. Do they provide critical tools to help augment your interpretation?

4. Do they provide helpful information about the specific content of the film, for example, historical details, social and political background, aesthetic ideas, etc.
5. Do they provide significant definitions of key terms to help refine your position?
6. Do they lead you to revise and reconsider your position on the film? If so, in what way? How might such a change lead you to reconfigure your thesis and introduction?

Discard any sources that have no bearing on your project or your overall claim.

When you have determined which sources will be used on your expansion and revision of the film analysis essay, then prepare a working version of the works cited page. Follow MLA guidelines for constructing the page. You can modify and change it as you complete the assignment. Be sure that all sources on the works cited page are mentioned at least once in the essay itself (with regard to the film, you need not make any special mention as the entire essay is constantly referencing it anyway). Note the sources in the essay itself by using parenthetical in-text citations for every instance in which the sources are referenced, paraphrased, summarized, or quoted. Also, be sure to use quotation sparingly, and be sure to introduce and gloss all quotations at all times. Whenever you quote from a source, be sure to explain to your reader the meaning of the quote and its significance to your essay.

For the introduction of the film analysis research essay, consider structuring it in relation to the sources you will be employing. Lay out the conversation that has been taking place—the “old” information—against which you will arrive at your particular position—the “new” information—where you stand relative to your sources. Find something that will capture the audience’s attention initially—it might be a quote or anecdote from one of your sources, for example, or perhaps a moment in the film that carries the idea that will be the focus of your essay.

On the film analysis research essay, you should be able to demonstrate a facility in applying literary/narrative, semiotic, and cinematic vocabulary to your film.

When the expansion and revision of the film analysis essay is concluded in order to create the film analysis research essay, you will need to have at least seven full pages of writing plus an extra page for the works cited entries. Be sure then that on final submission you have at least eight pages altogether for this assignment.