

## FWIS Film Analysis Essay #1

Ashline

Writer's Name

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### PEER REVIEW WORKSHOP FOR FILM ANALYSIS ESSAY #1

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? Is it brief, clever, and relevant or long, wordy, and vague? How might the author improve the title?**

The essay's title, *Film analysis essay of "Parasite"*, does not meet the criteria for titles for three main reasons.

- 1) The title of the movies should be in *italics*, not "in between quotation marks."
- 2) It is irrelevant, as it addresses what the entirety of what follows is, not what the essay's thesis will explore.
- 3) It does not arouse interest because the words film, analysis, and essay make it sounds like just another school assignment.

I believe the title could be improved by defining a well-structured thesis, removing words to only leave the key ones from your thesis, and adding/ arranging creatively to achieve an appealing title.

- 2. How does the introduction capture your interest, explain the film to be addressed and suggest why the film is significant for analysis? Does the writer pose a significant question to be answered in the thesis?**

I would like to address four mistakes in the introduction that do not align with the instructions for this assignment.

- 1) The film name is *Parasite*, as mentioned in the title, not "The Parasite." And, once again, movie titles should be in *italics*, not "in quotation marks."
- 2) Whether the movie is "famous around the whole world" and was "premiered at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival on 21 May 2019, where it became the first South Korean film to win the Palme d'Or" is irrelevant when attempting an objective narrative analysis of the film. This is because the purpose of this assignment is to present what one thinks, not what others have already decided to think.
- 3) It was mentioned several times to not include anything about the director except for his or her name. However, the introduction includes a whole quote of director Bong Joon Ho's observation of the film. The reason why this information is irrelevant – and even inappropriate – is because one must come up with an original thesis – that is, one's objective interpretation of the film. By

including the director's observation, it may appear as if the whole essay will agree and repeat what one person already said.

4) The introduction paragraph is too short – only two sentences. Two of which include irrelevant information about the film's prizes and the director's observation.

As a result of these mistakes, it was hard for me to find the introduction captivating. Furthermore, due to the absence of any analysis present, I was not able to determine the film's significance, much less a key question. The key question – “According to the name of the movie “parasite”, it leads to a question. What are the “parasites” in the movie?” – appears after the eighth paragraph of the essay. I will discuss this in further detail in question 7.

**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 contestable, i.e. worthy of defending in an essay? How might the author improve the thesis?**

I can't seem to find/ understand the thesis. The only two phrases in the introduction that do not mention irrelevant information are “The issue of the social class which indicate the gap between the rich and poor Nowadays” in the beginning and “besides what the research article said, it also combines elements of crime, comedy, suspense and social criticism, is almost perfect in its pacing.” I am assuming the latter is the thesis. However, it is difficult to understand as the wording is too general: crime, comedy, suspense, and social criticism, perfect, pacing. These are words that can be used to describe nearly any movie. There is nothing specific to *Parasite* in the thesis. I think the thesis could improve by developing an argument that explains how the movie combines these elements to share a message or idea + elaborate more on what the “perfect pacing” in the film is and how it affects the narrative of the movie. The introduction is at best a mere observation, but not an argument that leads to a thesis. Because of an unclear/ non-existent thesis, I can't evaluate it as surprising nor contestable.

**4. Look at the writer's plot analysis. Are all the terms of plot applied to the analysis or just a few? Does it lead with an appropriate topic sentence? Comment in detail on the plot below.**

There is no plot analysis, thus no use of plot analysis terms. Segments of what happened in the story are scattered throughout the essay confusingly. Mentions of the plot begin in paragraph 4. Regarding the paragraphs before that, Paragraph 2's topic sentence is that social class divides have taken place worldwide. To support this, the next sentence is another quote from Director Bong Joon Ho about his intentions of making the film. This is not only irrelevant, but also inappropriate since it is a personal film analysis. In addition, writing in the first person is not allowed, as it may invalidate the seriousness and formality of the analysis. Finally, this topic sentence – about social class divide – does not transition well with the “thesis” of the introduction – about the film combining elements and being perfectly paced. Regarding Paragraph 3, there is evident support to the topic sentence, which is about how the downturn of the economy and unemployment play a major role in the film. Nevertheless, there is only evidence about the economy and unemployment itself and not about how these two affect the narrative in the film.

I will proceed with the feedback on the plot analysis.

- Paragraph 4 does have a topic sentence and arguments that follow – albeit limitedly. The analysis is superficial. It only mentions what happens in the beginning at the pizza restaurant. It fails to connect the problems of unemployment and redundant employees – mentioned in the topic sentence – to the theme of the movie. In short, the description of what happens jumps immediately to a claim, forgetting about the arguments. Where is the redundancy? May be useful to explain where this claim of a redundancy is coming from. Who is Ki Woo? It appears out of nowhere in this essay that it may be useful to explain.
- Paragraph 5 says nothing of value. There is no topic sentence nor analysis. What are the implications in the narrative that one character has a successful company in New York and that another has a closed-down restaurant? In addition, there is no transition from the previous paragraph.

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

As noted by the paragraph-by-paragraph review, every paragraph seems quite isolated. However, paragraphs 4, 6, and 9 do provide an easily understandable topic sentence followed by particulars structure. Individually, these paragraphs are okay – but, as I mentioned, they are lacking more analysis. Nevertheless, when seen from the essay, they seem out of place – like most, if not every, paragraph in this essay.

I believe that having a well-structured thesis is the first step towards a more structured argumentation. Due to the seemingly absence of the thesis, it may not be a good idea to worry first about the organization and coherence of the essay. Once a thesis that meets all the criteria is established, I would recommend trying to adhere to the chronology of the narrative while providing each point that strengthens your thesis.

**6. What narrative/literary terms of interpretation does the writer employ in the essay? Is the application of symbol, irony, style, theme, and tone appropriate and compelling? How so?**

The narrative terms of interpretation used are irony (1) and symbol (1).

1. “The contrast between man and dog arranged here is also very **ironic**.”

Not appropriate and not compelling because absolutely no argumentation is provided to prove why this arrangement is ironic.

2. “...there are some significant **symbols** which play important role in this movie.”

It is appropriate because the symbols in question, rock and smell come with an elaboration as to why they are so. However, it is not compelling because the reflections lack a thorough explanation to be understood, which make them seem abstract and superficial.

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

- Paragraph 6. While it does contain a topic sentence and appropriate arguments that follow, it does not say anything of value that analyses, and thus supports the thesis. The sentences following the topic sentence – about how the movie implicitly reveals the wealth gap through architectural space, living environment, film tone contrast, and contrast montage – they do so limitedly. Moreover, it may be useful to define what film tone contrast and contrast montage is and / or provide explicit examples of them in the film in relation to the topic sentence.
- Paragraph 7. Assuming the topic sentence of this paragraph is the first sentence – about the repeated appearance of the image of the parasite – the sentences that follow do not deliver enough argumentation to support it. After the topic sentence is a narration of the Kim family looking for a job, a housekeeper, and a “fight for the interests in the dark basement ... resulting in the death.” How are any of these points relevant to the repeated appearance of the image of parasite. What even is the image of parasite?
- “Paragraph” 8. The reason I put the word paragraph in quotation marks is because they are just two sentences. I am assuming this is the key question to be answered by the thesis – “What are the parasites in the movie?” There are three main concerns about this. 1) Why mention it after 7 paragraphs? 2) Why is the question isolated. That is, where are the rest of the supporting sentences that lead towards this question? 3) Why is the question very different from what it was implied to be your thesis – social class in South Korea or combination of elements and perfect pacing?
- Paragraph 9. The topic sentence is, “I would like to say that everyone could be parasite in this movie.” Once again, it is not professional to use first person. The first 6 sentences do support the topic sentence of everyone being a parasite. This is because there is an analysis that Park Dong Ik, the rich patriarch, though seemingly not one, also relies on others to maintain his status. The next sentences, with the introduction of Choi Yeon Gyu, however, lose their focus to the main point. The reason for this is that the discussion changes from why every character is a parasite to a simply, superficial description of the wife. Why is there no analysis in this paragraph on the other characters about why they could also be parasites?
- Paragraph 10. The sentences that claim to provide support to the topic sentence -- about the Kim family being also a parasite – fail to do so. The first three sentences after the topic sentence just narrate a scene. The last sentence says “similar to cockroaches running ...” however, there is no further analysis that explains why it is similar to cockroaches.
- Paragraph 11. This paragraph says absolutely nothing. The topic sentence claims that “the three little dog can be the parasite.” The next sentence repeats the same thing as the topic sentence, only in different words. The third sentence jumps into a whole other topic – that “the contrast between man and dog ... is ironic.” The sentence that follows this one says exactly the same thing, in different words. This paragraph does not elaborate on its two weighty claims: 1) That dogs can be parasitic. 2) The contrast between man and dog is ironic.
- “Paragraph” 12. Once again, I put the word in quotations because there are just two sentences. This paragraph consists of only two sentences. It begins with “Besides the

cockroach” but the essay does not provide an analysis of the cockroach before, thus making it irrelevant. The next clause of the sentence claims that other symbols are important to the movie. The second sentence – “Such as the rock and smell” – is actually a dependent clause. This “paragraph” is not formatted logically. There is no argument that follows from “cockroaches” and nothing that “plays a significant role” is mentioned prior. The only thing that is mentioned before are social class divides in South Korea and the claim that everyone is a parasite.

- Paragraph 13. This paragraph overall does not contain a topic sentence. It just contains descriptions of the different instances the stone appeared. Due to the absence of a topic sentence, the purpose of the paragraph is unclear. In addition, nothing about this paragraph relates to the “thesis” nor does it transition appropriately from any previous idea. The two sentences about the second time the stone appears, though they claim to be related, do not support each other at all. There should be more elaboration on why the stone represented a “lucky stone for Ki Woo that he desperately wanted to change his life.” There are a lot of very interesting statements about “the third time the stone appeared.” However, they are poorly elaborated and do not connect to a central idea, as there is no thesis. These three last sentences have the same concerns as the previous. While some interesting points are made, they are incomprehensible to understand their implications due to lack of elaboration, lack of plot analysis, and lack of a thesis.
- Paragraph 14. Once again, what are the implications of “smell as an important clue” in the movie? How do they relate to the thesis?
- Conclusion. The conclusion is extremely vague. The words professional and interesting can vary greatly in definition and nuance. The sentence after does not provide explanations as to why it is professional and interesting. Instead, it mentions the audience. The rules regarding this essay explicitly mentioned to not mention the audience. In addition, the conclusion topic sentence is not a restatement of the thesis in the introduction – both are completely different, and both were either way, not explored deeply throughout the essay.

8. Summarize the essay strengths and weaknesses.

Essay Strengths Essay Weaknesses

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<p>The following observations were extremely thought provoking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the movie implicitly reveals the wealth gap through architectural space, living environment, film tone contrast, and contrast montage.</li> <li>• The repeated appearance of the image of the parasite.</li> <li>• Everyone could be parasite in this movie.</li> </ul>	<p>No clear thesis.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Symbolism of the rock and the smell.</li> </ul>	
	Mentioning of irrelevant information: awards the film received and the director's observations of the film.
	Too many grammatical and spelling mistakes that could have been avoided by fixing what the Word program naturally detects.
	Paragraphs too short. Introduction and conclusion paragraphs must be at least 5 sentences. Body paragraphs must be at least 8 sentences.
	Confusing structure and harsh transitions.
	No thorough analysis of claims.

#### 9. General suggestions for revision.

- As mentioned repeatedly, this essay needs a well-structured thesis – a main point.
- A paragraph is not two sentences. A paragraph is not an interrogative sentence. A paragraph is a body of sentences that present the main point and arguments for or against that point.
- What matters most in the context of this essay is what you can objectively interpret and thus logically argue from the film. What the director observes from his film and what critics praise of it is not important.
- In order to achieve paragraphs that meet the sentence minimum requirement, thorough analysis of the film is crucial.
- A concrete thesis and thorough analysis will help in structuring the essay.
- Overall, as mentioned in the chart, you have a lot of very interesting points to build your essay from. I believe you have only reached the surface level of the film, for the entirety of your essay consists of observations – yours, at best; the director's at worst. The next step is to analyze the implications of these observations in the film and synthesize your arguments.

Thank you for sending me your essay, Xinyu!

My best wishes for your next step on this essay ☺

Bean.