

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 title is short and concise, but it could be a little clearer on what the essay is going to explore, instead of just stating the two aspects, it could be more specific about how they are connected because it is a little vague regarding what exactly is going to explore in relation to these aspects
 - When the relation between these aspects is established, the title will forecast the main point of the essay

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?
 - The introduction captures the reader's interest, it starts with a quote from the film that is interesting but powerful at the same time, it is ambiguous which also arouses interest
 - Short sentences are used to put emphasis on certain aspects, such as the fact that it is only the beginning of the protagonist's journey
 - It also provides a brief description of the main plot of the story so that it is easier to understand the film analysis and the thesis in the context of the plot
 - However, the sentence explaining the quotation and the context behind this is too wordy. I think it could be clearer by adding who is Volkov and removing extra some words.
 - The setting is also ambiguous, instead of just stating the name of the setting, a couple of words on what it is exactly could be added
 - There is no significant question to be answered in the thesis, there is a thesis, but it does not raise a question.
 - Perhaps this could be done by altering the thesis, which is discussed below.

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?
 - The overall idea that is going to be explored in the essay is belief and identity, and how the character's actions and essentially make up their identity.
 - The thesis is surprising, and contestable.
 - It is contestable whether the movie focuses on the formation of our identity through the Protagonist's beliefs and actions, whether or not it is the main theme being put across, it definitely does not deal with an explicit idea
 - However, I think the thesis could be more specific on what kind of identity and have a more assertive stance
 - The thesis deals with multiple aspects, such as the motivations behind an individual, the function of the beliefs in the story, and beliefs and actions in relation to identity
 - I think it could be narrowed down, or be more concise about what exactly is the main message is, perhaps provide a link, or go into depth about one
 - In the case where all three are necessary for the essay, then I think the thesis statement could be written in a more direct manner
 - Because the topic sentences are not always clear (not located in the beginning or lost in the paragraph), the thesis is also weakened because the overall idea is not emphasized or reiterated throughout

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.
 - The topic sentence of the writer's plot analysis is appropriate and addresses how the subject is apparent even from the beginning of the film. However, it lacks an overall sentence that addresses the role of the plot, how the plot enables the subject of the essay/thesis to be discussed.
 - I think the plot needs to be explicitly discussed, not just what is the plot is, but what it does in relation to the main idea
 - But the description is really clear in showing the reader the events that take place, instead of just stating the series of events
 - Regarding the content of the plot, it is discussed in chronological order, with a brief overall explanation in the introduction, but there are many terms or events that need to be further explained, for example, what does an "inverted bullet" or "Stalsk -12" mean in the context of the film
 - Because there are many things that need to be explained in the context of the film, perhaps it would be better to simplify it by generalizing some of the irrelevant or less important events, or just remove unrelated aspects

- Sometimes the paragraphs are structured by plot analysis, and then further analysis regarding the thesis
 - To create more focused and clear paragraphs, the topic sentences could be addressed in the beginning, or the further analysis could be separated into different paragraphs
 - For example, the paragraph on the characters of Kat and her husband begins with the plot, but because there is no topic sentence it is hard to figure how it provides support for the thesis until later on
 - The plot analysis does refer to the plot terms, such as climax, tension, which is good signposting. But it does not mention the resolution, perhaps exploring the resolution and what the ending of the film means would accentuate the analysis
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?
- The essay is organized in chronological order, and this allows for a step-by-step understanding of what is happening, which I think is necessary for this film as there are many things happening that need to be addressed
 - The essay is organized by plot analysis and then narrowing in more specifically on the characters and settings, the organization is effective and straightforward
 - Sometimes the topic sentences are situated at the end of a paragraph, which is not wrong, but I think it would read better, and for better coherency, the topic sentence should be at the beginning, or another sentence that sums up the main point addressed in the paragraph could be written in the beginning
 - There could be two sentences that act as topic sentences in a paragraph (as long as they assert the same idea)
 - When each paragraph has a topic sentence, additional sentences could be added to reiterate the overall message conveyed
 - The essay needs cohesion, this can be improved using transitions and linking sentences from the end of a paragraph to the next, or linking vocabulary such as, “Furthermore”, “In addition to this,” etc.
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 interpretation employs, setting, character, and theme to address the overall thesis and idea.
 - The characters are discussed in detail and contrasted with each other, and the relationships between the characters are also discussed to explore the thesis

- The setting is discussed in relation to time, as this is a key theme in the movie, the different locations that they travel to are also mentioned
 - Irony, style and tone are not employed in the essay, perhaps they are not evident in the film
 - However, the lack of a topic sentence often confuses the main point of the paragraph, for example, there is a paragraph about the characters lacking complexity regarding the backstory, contrasting the characters that do have much more depth, but the overall message is about the conflict in what the main character wants to do and needs to do
 - In some of the paragraphs, the topic sentence is either in the middle or at the end (as mentioned before)
 - Although these terms are applied, they are not explicitly mentioned and therefore the analysis/explanation often does not focus on one of these terms, for example, the last paragraph discusses the different locations but does not explicitly state, 'setting', and the impact of these narrative analysis terms of interpretation
 - Without the explicit mention of these terms, it is hard to recognize where they are being employed for interpretation
 - I also think that more diverse narrative analysis terms could be employed in the analysis, such as symbolism, or style, or perhaps some exploration into the colors utilized etc.
7. Where do you find the analysis and interpretation unconvincing or superficial?
- The last two body paragraphs lack a proper topic sentence, and a concise main point to the paragraph, but that may be due to a lack of time because the conclusion is not long enough as well
 - The first paragraph seems to discuss how the internal and external conflicts contribute to the Protagonist's actions; however, this needs to be further developed to provide a strong link in support of the thesis
 - The second paragraph looks at more towards the ethics of re-visiting events that have taken place, this could be linked to the thesis but without a topic sentence and linking vocabulary, it is currently irrelevant
 - Both paragraphs need more support and development, through establishing clear topic sentences and links to the thesis or the overall main idea, currently, it is not persuasive because the main point is not clear and there is not enough supported explanation
 - The short paragraph about the character, Priya also could be developed further, a topic sentence exists but it does not have enough development and link to the previous paragraph
 - Perhaps her characterization could be discussed, such as physical appearance, are they static, do they change, etc.

8. Summarize the essay strengths and weaknesses.

Essay Strengths

- The title is concise, and the introduction captures the reader's attention.
- It also raises further questions, which link to the thesis and the main idea.
- The thesis is contestable and surprising, it deals with a concept that is not explicit
- The brief description in the introduction is general enough for the plot analysis to make sense further along the essay
- Plot analysis has relevant analysis and pinpoints specific events that support the thesis
- The plot analysis is written in a way that demonstrates to the reader what is happening, not just stating the events that took place

Essay Weaknesses

- There are many components to the thesis, therefore it would be better to focus on one or make the wording more concise
- Many of the paragraphs need a topic sentence, or an overarching idea to be explored in that paragraph to be introduced
- Plot analysis needs to explain some ambiguous concepts, cannot assume the reader will know the film
- Needs more narrative vocabulary to be explicitly mentioned, or new analytic terms could be used to support existing analysis
- Last few paragraphs need more development and topic sentences

9. General suggestions for revision.

- 1) Remove all mentions of the audience, the essay should be focused on the narrative analysis
- 2) Reconsider the title, and consider creating a title that forecasts the rest of the essay
- 3) Simplify the description of the quote in the thesis to ensure that it is clear what is happening
- 4) Make sure that all the vague terminology, or words that are specific to the movie are defined to enable the reader to understand what is happening
- 5) Consider changing the thesis to focus on one aspect, or to be more concise in addressing the link between the three aspects
- 6) Use the narrative analytic terms more explicitly, so that it is easier to understand the overall point being made, such as 'setting', 'character' etc.
- 7) Consider exploring a more diverse range of analytic terms, such as the theme, style, imagery, or tone, perhaps look more into depth on the characterization of the protagonist

- a. Style can refer to the pace of the film, and since it is an action film it may be useful to consider, and explicitly state what is known to the viewer and what is not
- 8) The plot needs to be explicitly discussed (not just what the plot is but what does it do), what does the plot do in relation to the thesis
- 9) Consider removing some unnecessary details in the plot analysis, but also consider adding more information for events that need more information
- 10) Make sure that every paragraph has a clear topic sentence or at least a sentence that introduces the main point of the paragraph
- 11) The topic sentences need to be changed to support the thesis so that the main message can be reiterated throughout
- 12) Consider moving the topic sentence to the beginning of the paragraph, or creating topic sentences that summarise the main point going to be made in the paragraph
 - a. Many of the paragraphs already have topic sentences, but it would be better, to begin with them
- 13) When topic sentences are written use more linking vocabulary, such as “Furthermore”, “In addition to”, and consider how the paragraphs are linked together for smoother transitions
 - a. Using terms like “therefore”, would also be useful in transitioning
- 14) Develop the last two paragraphs, as they both do not have a clear topic sentence and do not support the thesis
- 15) Write a conclusion that doesn't only summarise the content but also links back to the introduction, perhaps linking back to the quotation used at the beginning
- 16) Make sure that the conclusion and the introduction are around 6 to 8 sentences long, the introduction is a little wordy
- 17) Make sure that the quotes used are relevant, and support the analysis, in some cases it is not necessary, where it could be paraphrased, or other terms could be used instead
- 18) Characterization is a key point of analysis in the essay, make sure that the word ‘characterization’, is used so that it is easy to understand what aspect of narrative analysis you are exploring
- 19) Explore the resolution of the movie, the climax and tension that builds up to the climax is mentioned but the ending of the movie is also important, perhaps consider what the ending could mean in relation to the thesis
- 20) Use specific terms such as exposition, rising action, crisis, falling action as well to make the analysis for direct
- 21) The short paragraph about the character Priya could be further developed by examining other characteristics