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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?

(1) This title is interesting enough to pique readers’ curiosity. Western drama typically features tough, gun-wielding men, so the title "Western Drama without Gun" subverts expectations and intrigues readers, ultimately stimulating their curiosity. Since the title should serve as a means to engage readers closely with the work, this intriguing aspect that the title provides is clever.

(2) This title is neither too long nor wordy. Titles are more effective when they are short and clear because these qualities not only impress the audience powerfully but are also easier to remember for the readers. In this sense, this short and clear title has its advantages.

(3) However, this title doesn't adequately foreshadow the themes that the work will explore. In short, it doesn't provide a clear indication of the main ideas that will be discussed. The work delves into how the weight of historical prejudice negatively impacts individuals and those around them, a theme not implied by the title. It would be better if the title offered some hints about the main themes of the essay.

(4) The author can improve the title by incorporating keywords such as "prejudice," "past," and "present" since, according to the introduction, these are the central terms of the work. How about enhancing the title to something like "Western Drama with Prejudice, Sans Guns"? I believe it would be more effective if the writer included the main theme, "prejudice," in the title to provide readers with a better forecast of what the essay will revolve around.

2. How does the introduction capture your interest, explain the film to be addressed and suggest why the film is significant for analysis but without praising it? Does the writer pose a significant question to be answered in the thesis?  
  
(1) The first sentence of the introduction is composed of the contrast between old and new information. The writer is comparing the usual Western Dramas with the film that she is writing about. This contrast makes the readers to be interested in the film, ultimately helping with their concentration. This is how the first sentence captures the readers’ interest.

(2) In the introduction, we can see a clear question that is going to be answered throughout the body paragraphs. This question is about what the main cause of the conflicts in the film is. The writer does not leave this question unanswered but gives the answers to the audience by mentioning the specific historical background or setting of the film. According to the introduction, the main cause of the conflicts is the tension between the old and new generations, each of which are agricultural society and an industrial society. It was an excellent point that the question is clear, and the answer is also clear enough for the readers to understand.

(3) The writer does not praise the director or writer in the introduction. This makes the readers maintain a neutral attitude and helps them analyze the film in a more objective way.

(4) I do think that this question is significant since the conflicts between the old and new generations are one of the main issues in society that must be dealt with (for instance, in Korea, hatred or neglect towards old people is becoming intensified). However, despite the importance of the question, the writer does not tell the readers how important the question is. Without mentioning how the exact problem is ongoing in contemporary society, the readers hardly recognize the significance that this problem holds.

(5) In this sense, in my opinion, it would be better if related social problems in contemporary society, which are the conflicts between old and new cultures, were added to the introduction. How about adding related statistics that show these conflicts at the top of the introduction? Or the quotes or interviews or certain lines from a documentary that portray how the old and new people are conflicted. Adding these materials would not make the readers more interested and make the question in the introduction seem more significant.

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?

(1) The writer concludes with her thesis. It is impressive that the thesis is surely clear. It covers the theme that the writer is going to discuss throughout the whole essay. Moreover, it has a meaningful significance to our contemporary society in that the exact problem is prevalent in this world. The theme of how prejudice raises conflicts between old and new people is worthwhile to discuss in that this powerfully deteriorates the harmony of society.

(2) However, although the thesis statement is meaningful it is not that surprising. As this issue is relevant in our society, it is not surprising or twisting readers’ expectations. It seems that the thesis is descriptive rather than argumentative. Since descriptive statements are hardly contestable, this thesis is hard to be regarded as contestable.

(3) I suggest adding a counterargument to the thesis in the introduction. There must be some descriptions that are not related to the prejudice between two generations. There may be moments when the two generations make harmony or reconciliation, which contrasts the thesis. By adding descriptions about these moments, since they serve as the means to oppose the thesis, it would become more 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.

(1) Exposition: The writer surely portrays the exposition of the film, including the introduction of the main characters. However, since there is no usage of this very term, it becomes a little bit harder for the readers to differentiate the exposition from rising actions. For this reason, it would be better to put the word exposition in the paragraph.

(2) Settings: I couldn’t see information about background, including spatial and time setting, in this paragraph. It would be better if this information is included before the introduction of the characters. Once there is an image of the setting in one’s mind, it would be easier for him or her to imagine the characters who are interacting in it. When is the exact time? If there is no mention what is the season? Where is the setting located? Dessert or a city?

(3) Characters: The first body paragraph introduces each character to the readers in a clear way. However, it is somehow confusing because the writer names the characters name before giving information about them. In the statements “Wille Phil sticks to the old ways…” and “Rose widowed by …”. Willie Phil and Rose are first mentioned in each sentence, but since the readers have no information about them, the abrupt appearance of their names may make them confused. It would be better if the statement starts with their information such as “our protagonist, Wille Phil…” or anything would be great. For the second sentence, since George has already been introduced to the readers, it would be nice to start the sentence with George such as “George has remarried a woman named Rose who was widowed by…”.

(4) Contrast between Characters: I loved how the writer compare the two main characters. This kind of contrast makes it easier to understand each character.

(5) The Rising Action: The term ‘rising action’ is mentioned in the paragraph. By portraying conflicts between characters, the writer informs readers that these conflicts lead to rising action. I personally find representing the link between characters and conflicts is a clever way to deal with the rising action.

(6) Topic sentence and conclusion sentence: I think, the topic sentence of the first body paragraph are well connected to the body in that it deals with conflicts between past and relatively new generation such as the conflict between Phil and Rose. However, the last sentence which is supposed to summarize or conclude the ideas of the paragraph talks about the mood, color, and tone of the film. I personally feel this awkward, and it would be better to remove or move this statement to the other position.

(7) Vagueness: There is a statement, “Phil’s world in the old way”. I personally feel this “the old way” phrase is vague. In what way Phil’s world is old? I think specific examples or information would be needed when introducing Phil in the first place.

(8) Climax: This analysis excellently deals with the climax of the film. The paragraph describes the very moment of the climax vividly, which is one of the most significant parts of the process of analyzing a film. However, in the supporting ideas, there is no clear explanation about what event is the climax. Probably, Peter’s killing of Phil could be the climax. Then it would be better to identify it clearly.

(9) Missing Terms: Although the analysis deals with the falling action and the resolution of the film, it does not explicitly mention these terms. It would be clearer if the paragraph included these terms.

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?

(1) The first body:

a. the topic sentence

-Though the topic sentence mentions the nonexistence of a physical fight scene, the paragraph does not seem to give an explanation about this. I thought that this feature of this film plays a significant part in the paragraph to the extent that the title forecasts it by the phrase “without a gun”. However, compared to the significance of this, the paragraph does not really center around this theme. It would be better if the paragraph explained this part more.

-Transition: The topic sentence does not seem to be closely connected to the last sentence of the introduction. The last sentence mainly deals with the symbols. Since the very next sentence is not about symbols but the background of the film, they don’t seem to be naturally connected to each other. Because of this, it seems that the writer does not use an appropriate transition that links those two paragraphs.

b. coherence

-information of the characters: The topic sentences include the word “past framework”, and the body explains that Phil is the one in the past framework. However, specific factors that make Phil old-fashioned are not mentioned. How he becomes the one stuck in the past framework? Is he dressed like that or is his mind too much conventional? To clarify the term “past framework”, it would be better to give more information, which makes Phil stuck in the past framework.

(2) The Second Body Paragraph:

a. the topic sentence

- The topic sentence does not contain a transition. It would be better to add one to connect the formal paragraph more naturally. Since the sentence right before the topic sentence is about the conflicts between characters, it will be great if the topic sentence starts with it. How about something like “While these emotional conflicts are mainly those that occur between Phil and Rose, in the climax with Peter’s appearance, another conflict rises…”? It would sound more natural.

b. supportive ideas:

-I personally think that the part where Phil’s homosexuality is introduced does not really go with the flow. Right after mentioning Bronco Henry, suddenly, the information that Phil is gay is introduced, which is followed by that Phil was in love with Bronco Henry. According to the argument, Phil is the one who is tied up to the past, which is the main theme of this work. However, Phil’s being homosexual, in my opinion, has nothing to do with his conventional personality.

-Moreover, the topic sentence does not go with the last sentence. While the former deals with climax and Phil’s homosexuality, the latter talks about Peter’s personality. It would be more logical if the conclusion sentence talked about what the topic sentence does.

-I personally hard to get the characteristics of Peter. It sounds like he is a psychopath, which is probably because there is not much information about him. Probably, once the information that shows his personality is mentioned, it would help with understanding him. The last statement explains his personality, which suggests that supportive examples (scenes where Peter’s personality is well shown) came before the argument (Peter’s personality). It would be better if the argument comes first like what we do when writing a body paragraph to make readers easier to understand.

(3) third body paragraph

a. the topic sentence

-transition missing: This sentence is not naturally connected to the second paragraph since it is missing an appropriate transition. Since the last sentence of the second paragraph is about pressure or control that Phil has undergone, mentioning these elements in the topic sentence will be great.

-missing information: The body paragraph deals with two different symbols that are related to the power of Dog and marriage. However, the topic sentence only covers the symbol of the power of the dog. As the body deals with the symbol of marriage, it would be necessary to mention it in the topic sentence.

b. supportive ideas

-One of the statements, “Meanwhile, why does Phil hate Rose so much?” looks like out of the right place. The conflict between Phil and Rose is already discussed in the first body paragraph. It would be better if this explanation moved to the first body paragraph. The reason for his hatred should be explained earlier and probably in this paragraph, though this explanation is missing, it would be clear just by demonstrating how this marriage maximizes the gap between Phil and Rose.

-The main argument is that Phil may have expressed confusion and rejection by comparing him with his brother’s sexual identity. However, scenes that prove these arguments are missing. If the scenes that portray his confusion and rejection exist, it would be nice to use them as supportive examples.

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?

(1) Tone: At the bottom of the first body paragraph, the writer uses the term, “tone”. The writer applies this term to highlight the depressing atmosphere that the conflicts evoke. This usage is compelling and appropriate in that it is successfully highlight how this depressing tone represents the emotional conflicts between characters.

(2) Tone and Imagery: However, there is no detailed description of the tone. The writer informs that the film uses a quiet mood, dark color, and depressing tone. However, there are no examples of them. Without examples, it makes it harder for the readers to imagine its mood. It would be better if there was a certain scene in a depressing tone to provide the readers with an example.

(3) Symbol: The essay, in the third body paragraph, explains the symbol of The Power of Dog. According to the argument, it symbolizes the history of Bronco Henry and being tied up from the past. This implication is interesting, but I cannot see a clear picture of what the power of a dog is. Is it the name of the hill which looks like a barking dog? It would be better to give a definition of it before discussing it. It is now somewhat superficial. However, the symbol regarding marriage is quite compelling. This symbol excellently highlights the conflicts between Phill and Rose.

7. Is the author of the essay consistently being analytical, or is the author lapsing into evaluation at times? Point out any areas that might be problematic in that regard.

The overall paragraphs do not lapse into evaluation, being constantly analytical. However, there is a sentence that might be seen as an evaluation, which is “the director of the movie projected sharp psychological fight”. This sentence might be read as praise for the director. It would be better to revise this sentence by using passive voice such as “sharp psychological fight is projected in this movie”. Then it would be less problematic.

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

(1) physical violence: In the conclusion, the writer contrasts typical Western movies with physically violent events in this film, which more focuses on psychological conflicts. However, according to the second paragraph, Peter kills Phil, which is a type of physical violence. In this context, I think, to contrast this film to the typical Western movies there should be more supportive ideas.

(2) being gay and tied up in the past: Being gay and tied up in the past are the main points that describe the characteristics of Phil. These characteristics are dealt with in the second body paragraph. However, I don’t see any connection between these points. Is there any connection between being gay and being tied up in the past?

(3) the symbol of the power of the dog: I personally find this symbol superficial. It would be better to give more detailed information about it.

(4) The background of the film: In the introduction, there is a phrase “transition from an agricultural country to an industrial country”. This must have something to do with the film, but this transition is not mentioned when the film’s setting is introduced, making the stories that the film offers superficial. It would be better to add some scenes that show this transition.

9. Summarize the essay strengths and weaknesses.

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| Essay Strengths | Essay Weaknesses |
| -The Usage of Clear and Appropriate Contrast: This essay uses contrast in an appropriate manner. For instance, when introducing characters, Phil and George are contrasted, which highlights the distinctive characteristics that they have. Additionally, the writer contrasts the typical Western Drama and this film, eventually showing that this film is worthwhile to analyze.   -Deep Investigation into Symbols: This essay allocates one paragraph to explain the symbols. These symbols are well connected to the characteristics of each character as well as to the main theme of this essay.  -Clear Message: The harmful effect the past can have on people is the main point of this essay. All the body paragraph talks about it, never leaking the other way.  -Well-Described Protagonist: Phil’s multifaceted characteristics are excellently described.  -Clear Sentences: The sentences are neither wordy nor tricky. They are generally easy to understand. | -Missing Transitions: Each topic sentence does not have transitions. Since there is no transition, which serves to connect two paragraphs, there seems to be less connection with each paragraph.  -Missing Information of the Topic Sentence: The topic sentence does not contain some main ideas that arguments are conveying. The topic sentence should cover more points that the body centers around.  -Vaguely Described Character: Peter serves a key role in the film. However, the reason why he killed Phil is still unconvincing. He indeed hates being controlled, but is it a convincing reason to kill a man? I think there should be more information about Peter’s story.  -The Topic Sentence and the Concluding Sentence: There are some cases in the topic sentence and conclusive sentence deal with different ideas. To make a paragraph more uniform, in my opinion, the conclusive sentence should include what the topic sentence has mentioned. |

10. General suggestions for revision.

(1) Positioning of a sentence: In the introduction, the sentence “Have you ever been in conflict because you couldn’t escape prejudice or pressure from the past?” doesn’t seem to be in the right position. I think this kind of question is significant in that it strongly engages the readers to focus on reading by letting them come up with memories. However, the position of this question is awkward in it comes to the context. How about moving this question to the top of the introduction or at least before introducing the movie? I personally find it would be better to place this statement at the top of the essay.

(2) seem to be based on 🡪 is based on: In the introduction, the sentence “many of the confrontation compositions in this film seem to be based on the past and the present” does not convey its idea strongly because of the word ‘seem’. I think, to convey a message in a powerful way, it would be better to remove this verb. By removing this word, the arguments would sound clearer and persuasive.

(3) Wordy Sentence in the first body paragraph: “In addition, there are many sharp scenes of conflict that seem to help indigenous people to fight back against Phil, an anti-Semitism, or to sell them leather that is very important to Phil, without permission”.   
 I had a hard time understanding this statement since it is wordy and contains so much information. How about splitting this information into several sentences?

(4) First Sentence of the first Body: To put an appropriate transition, how about dealing with the symbols in this topic sentence? Since the sentence right before this topic sentence starts with “by utilizing the film’s various symbols”, it would be nicer if the transition included something about symbols. How about a sentence like “Before we discuss about the symbols, it is significant to center around the background of the film…”? It would make the two paragraphs seem to be connected more closely.

(5) a sentence from a second body: since being introverted, delicate, and bookish is the reason why Peter had a hard time adjusting to the ranch, it would be better if we clarify the cause and effect relationship by using conjunction as “since” or “because’.  
but the introverted, delicate, and bookish Peter initially found it hard to adjust to the ranch   
🡪 but since(because) Peter is introverted, delicate, and bookish, he initially found it hard to adjust to the ranch

(6) The history of Bronco Henry à Phil’s memory related to Bronco Henry: To highlight the significance that Bronco Henry has to Phil, it would be better to use the word memory than history.

(7) Irony: I thought about the connection between Phil’s being gay and tied up in the past. In my opinion, while Phil hurts Rose and George with his being tied up in the past, he is also a victim of society for being gay. I think, it somehow creates an irony of being attacker and victim simultaneously, which is worth to be discussed.

(8) Minor Details(Grammar Issues)   
-usages of quiet mood and dark color and depressing tone 🡪 usages of quite mood, dark color, and depressing tone  
-because it reminded him of, Bronco Henry 🡪 because it reminded him of Bronco Henry.  
-Phil is character who strongly reject 🡪 Peter is character who strongly reject   
-the image of the hill looking like a dog 🡪 the image of the hill which looks like a dog   
-Phil was killed by a man who felt sexual love 🡪 Phil was killed by a man whom he felt sexual love with.   
-The psychological western drama, The Power of Dog, was fiercer and sharper than any western drama without guns 🡪 The psychological western drama without guns, The Power of Dog, was fiercer and sharper than any western drama.  
-This was mentioned in the scene 🡪 this symbol is represented in the scene   
-Rose’s son Peter with his ex-husband 🡪 Rose’s son with his ex-husband, Peter