

FILM STUDIES – PRE-INDUCTION ACTIVITY

Welcome to Film Studies. We hope you enjoyed the activities on New Student Day.

THE MAGIC OF CINEMA AND THE ART OF FILM DIRECTION



Following on from the activities you have completed, this Summer task will allow you to watch, analyse, explore and tell us about a film you love, or the films of your favourite director.

The task is simple: write an approximately **500-word review about a film you love or an article about your favourite director** in the style of a publication of your choice.

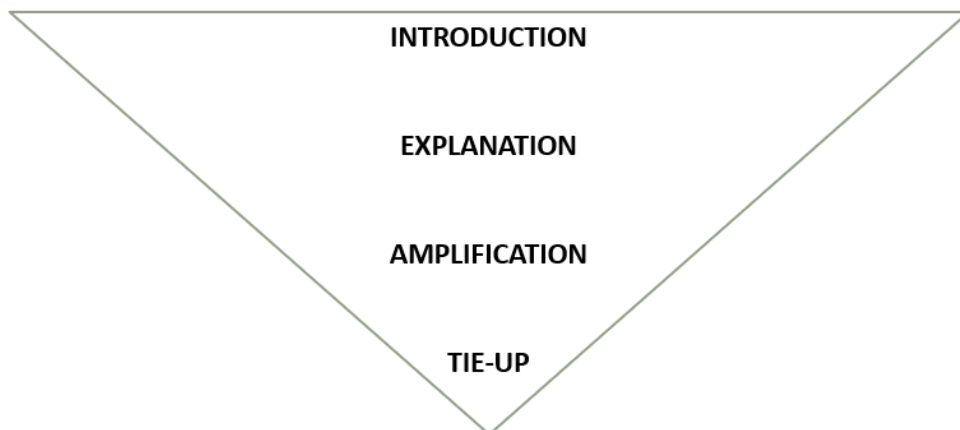
TOP TIPS:

Before writing your review or article, (re)watch your film and make notes on the following:

- What are the key themes or what **themes** does your chosen director explore?
- Think about **the look of the film(s)** – the use of locations, lighting, costumes, props and characters. What do these visual elements communicate and why?
- Think about some of the **technical elements** – the camerawork and editing. What impact did these elements have on your enjoyment? For example, if the film was edited in a non-linear order, why did the director do this, and what was the impact?
- Think about the impact of **character's performances**. What did they make you think and feel?
- How were **elements of sound** used, such as music and stand-out dialogue?
- What were the **stand-out sequences** and why? Again, how did they make you feel?
- Overall, why do you love this film or director?

It would also be useful to read some existing film reviews and think about the following:

- How are **language and tone** used to engage the intended audience? Formal or informal? Comedic or serious? Any specific film terminology?
- How does the article **grab your attention** at the start?
- How does the **layout and use of images** contribute to this?
- How does it use research, quotations and other information in the middle section to expand upon key points of view, and how does it end (aka 'tie-up')?
- NOTE: Journalists often use the 'inverted pyramid' approach where the introduction (featuring the Who? What? Why? Where? When? and How?) is the biggest section, followed by increasingly smaller sections that 'explain' and 'amplify' the key points of view, before wrapping all the points up in a short and engaging ending.



USEFUL LINKS TO FILM REVIEWS AND ARTICLES ABOUT DIRECTORS:



Article on Director Christopher Nolan: <https://www2.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine/features/christopher-nolan-escape-artist>

Review of *The Royal Tenenbaums* (Wes Anderson, 2001):
<http://old.bfi.org.uk/sightandsound/feature/41>

Review of *Everything Everywhere All at Once* (Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert, 2022) <https://www.empireonline.com/movies/reviews/everything-everywhere-all-at-once/>

Numerous Reviews of Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse on letterboxd
<https://letterboxd.com/film/spider-man-across-the-spider-verse/>

TAKING INSPIRATION:

These examples are only intended to be a guide on the use of language, structure and the devices the writers use to engage their audience, but feel free to find your own. Some examples included are longer and more complex, but don't worry about trying to replicate these, **just take some inspiration and write something that you would find interesting and engaging. Show us your passion for film!**

Please send your completed review or article to chepworth@bolton-sfc.ac.uk and you can share your love of film with your peers when we meet in September.