

Film Studies: Essay # 1

The HOW Affects the WHAT:

Throughout the course of this year, I have asked you to consider the following question: "How does a text mean?" This question is intentionally awkward to capture your attention. Essentially, I want you to realize that the way in which a story is presented matters just as much as the story itself.

For instance, I could tell you the story of the "Three Little Pigs" in a normal fashion. However, if I choose to tell the same story except from the Wolf's point of view, then everything changes. The pigs are now the antagonists and the poor, poor Wolf is constantly rejected.

The following three films have unusual ways of telling a story. Typically films follow the conventions of books and tell a story from the third person perspective. While these films are somewhat told from a third person perspective, they also involve aspects of first person point of view as well. This makes them unique and provide the audience with a completely different experience.

The Assignment:

Watch the following three films:

- Memento (available at any movie store)
- Pan's Labyrinth (available at any movie store)
- Geri's Game (Pixar film; search in YouTube)

On EACH film, write a one-page analysis that explains HOW the story was told and what affect it had on the audience. Imagine if the film had been told in a different (more traditional) way, would the film be as good?

In your one-page analysis, you must have the following:

- a clear thesis statement that answers "**How did the filmmaker decide to tell the story? Why did the filmmaker decide to tell the story in this manner?**"
- at least two paragraphs that follow the analytic structure (must be 4:1 ratio of analysis to evidence)
- no quotations required; instead describe the way the story was told (the HOW) as evidence
- a BRIEF conclusion

The HOW Affects the WHAT Essay (Film Studies)

	INSUFFICIENT MASTERY	APPROACHING MASTERY	MASTERY	BEYOND MASTERY
THESIS	Your essay contains a thesis, but it may not be clear or relevant.	Your thesis states a simplistic argument that somewhat answers the essay question.	Your thesis states a clear argument that answers the complete essay question.	Your thesis states a clear and sophisticated argument that answers the complete essay question.
EVIDENCE	You address only small pieces of the film.	You address some of the film but without sufficient detail or explanation.	You address most of the film with enough detail and explanation.	You address the significant parts of the film with detailed explanation.
ANALYSIS	You do not explain or interpret the evidence. The essay mostly contains summary.	You explain only some of your evidence. OR Your explanation does not connect to your thesis.	You analyze the evidence supports your thesis in a 4:1 ratio.	You clearly, persuasively and sophisticatedly analyze your evidence supports your thesis in a 4:1 ratio.
COHESIVENESS & ORGANIZATION	You do not provide clearly identifiable topic sentences.	Your topic sentences do not clearly support your thesis statement.	Your topic sentences clearly support your thesis statement.	Your topic sentences clearly support your thesis and provide a smooth transition from one idea to the next.
GRAMMAR	Grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling have many noticeable errors.	Grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling have some noticeable errors.	Grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling have no major errors.	Grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling have no noticeable errors.

IF ANY PART OF YOUR ESSAY FALLS BELOW MASTERY, REVISE & RESUBMIT.

Thesis:	/50	Comments:
Evidence:	/100	
Analysis:	/200	
Cohesiveness/Org.	/100	
Grammar	/50	
Total:	/500	