

Introductory Paper Guidelines
Film 270 Fall 2010
Mr. Kiesner

Paper is Due in Class September, 9th

Length: 3 pages

Format: Standard Academic, 12 point Times font, double spaced, one-inch margins, spell-checked, MLA standards of grammar

At the top of your paper should be:

Film Title *Brick, Orchid, To Wong Foo, 10 Things*
Director, Year

Assignment:

Select a film that you know well. This may or may not be your favorite movie, but you should pick a film that you can easily summarize. The first part of the paper should be a plot summary. Assume that the reader understands film terms but has never seen the film. Determine the main plotline and then structure your synopsis around that narrative thread. You need to be selective about which plotlines you cover and which you should leave out. Your plot summary should be clear and easy to follow.

In the second part the assignment, you need to describe and analyze one scene of narrative significance. You should already have some film terminology under your belt, so be specific in your description. You should not take anything for granted. For example, if the most important scene is a dramatic crying scene, be sure to look beyond the performer and their believability and notice the framing, editing and music. More often than not, there are tangible techniques underlying an audience's response.

*Sound,
perspective,
composition,
editing*

Rules and useful tips:

- All film titles must be *italicized* every time you write the title. You will lose points for not doing so!
- Describe actions occurring in the film in present tense, not past tense. Yes, a film is prerecorded, but when you are watching it, events occur in the present moment. Trust me, everything will read better if you follow this rule.
- The format for referring to characters is "character's name (actor's name)." For example: Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford). After the first mention, only use the character's name.
- www.imdb.com is the best web site for finding film years and filmographies.

Italicize ★
Present tense