**Film Analysis Brainstorm**

After writing reviews of products and text, you have experience evaluating the worth of an entity. Now let’s apply that experience to analyze a film. As you watch the film, record observations from the film that you will turn into a formal analysis of the film. You can do this work individually or distribute the work load in groups of up to three members.

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| **Pre-Film Logistics** |
| Title of movie: Genre:  Name of Director:  Year published:  Major characters and actors portraying them:  Award nominations (and wins):  Box Office success (or lack thereof):  Average rating per Rotten Tomatoes (critic and user ratings): |
| **Opening Credits** |
| What are the first images in the film (often while the credits are rolling), and what do they tell you?  Where and when is the film set and how do you know this?  Do you know yet how the film will end? What about the first images of the film helped this prediction? |
| **Actions of the People** |
| How did the movement and words of specific characters push the story?  What specific choices did actors make to make the plot clear? |
| **Cinematography** |
| What color schemes are repeated and what is the purpose of these choices?  Highlight two scenes that are especially powerful with respect to camera angle choice.  How did the film makers use the play between light and dark to help tell the story?  What is the overall look and feel of the film? |
| **Effects** |
| Consider which sound and visual effects enhanced the piece. Which effects were digital or “natural”?  Visual:  Sound: |
| **Music** |
| How is soundtrack scored? How does specific music work for certain scenes? What effect does this choice have on the audience? Note at least three specific choices. |
| **Costumes and Wardrobe/Makeup/Character Design** |
| Cite at least two ways that design choices in characters’ visuals affected the audience. What specifically about his/her appearance made the character appealing or appalling and help with storytelling? |
| **Narrative** |
| What is the balance between dialogue and action? What is the effect of this balance?  How did the author use time (flash backs or flash forwards) to enhance the story telling?  How did the author use point of view (narrative point of view and same scene from different characters’ perspectives) to enhance the story telling? |
| **Theme** |
| What is the author’s universal statement about humanity? What are the film makers trying to teach the audience? How do you know? What happened in the film to help you arrive at this theme?  Basic, short-sided, statements that are often confused as themes:  The central theme is about love. The central theme is two very different types of men on a road trip.  Relatable, impactful, mature universal theme statements:  Don’t judge a book by it’s cover. Love can hurt as much as it heals. The individual is more powerful than society. Not all acquisition of knowledge is benevolent. |