**In the future, use this to modify this document:**

**How to Write a Film Review**

**Unique Title of review references the title of the movie**

**Paragraph 1**  
You will need to include the following: name of the film, prominent stars of the film, basic setting (time and place), and type of film (comedy, adventure, drama, etc.)

**Paragraph 2**  
You will need to write a plot summary for the movie. Do not reveal the ending. Discuss at least 2 events and be sure to cover the entire scope of the movie, except the very end.

**Paragraph 3**  
Discuss one aspect of filmmaking. You may choose from acting, direction, editing, costume design, set design, photography, background music, or anything else you may think of. Be sure that you are specific and cite examples from the movie.

**Paragraph 4**  
Discuss another aspect of filmmaking. You may choose from acting, direction, editing, costume design, set design, photography, background music, or anything else you may think of, but obviously choose something different from what you discussed in the previous paragraph. Be sure that you are specific and cite examples from the movie.

**Paragraph 5**  
Give your overall reaction to the film as well as your opinion on the quality of the film. Also include your recommendations for potential viewers.

Your review should be 400-600 words. It does not have to follow this format, but it is a great way to build on the theme and provide examples for the reader to see the connections when watching the film.

“A Box of Chocolate with All the Right Flavors-*Gump* succeeds”

“Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you’re gonna get.” However, when you watch Forrest Gump starring Tom Hanks as Forrest and Robin Wright as Jenny, you know you are going to get a lot of laughs and even a few tears. The screenplay for the 1994 movie was written by Eric Roth, based on the novel by Winston Groom. The story follows Forrest through 30 years of trials and tribulations, placing Forrest within historical moments of history, and in pursuit of his one dream–his “most special friend,” Jenny.

The films’ actors’ success in portraying their characters is a major factor in the film’s success. Tom Hanks and Robin Wright worked well together, just like “peas and carrots.” The on-screen chemistry between the two was phenomenal, showing a real connection between the two, finding myself mad at Jenny when she blew Forrest off and in tears when he told her that he was heading to Vietnam. Gary Sinise as Lieutenant Dan Taylor gives pure emotion and frustration to the questions asked by many men and women after the tumultuous 1960’s.

Just as good as the actors were those working behind the scenes with the special effects. Throughout Forrest Gump the special effects were incredible. During Lieutenant Dan’s scenes, I was convinced that he really didn’t have legs. I was studying the scenes, looking for any signs of legs, trying to figure out how it was done. It turns out that each and every frame was painted over to give it the true to life values that it holds. Also bringing the movie more credibility was the ability to place Forrest in history making events. These events ranged from Forrest teaching Elvis how to swing his hips to meeting Presidents for various accomplishments. These television clips of Forrest were done with such finesse that they look real. You believe that Forrest was the one telling Lyndon Johnson he was shot “directly in the buttocks” or a successful Shrimp farmer on the cover of magazines.

This story is perfect for those in need of a dose of goodness. The rejuvenation of purity, to view someone with true values of honesty, friendship and family, is a breath of fresh air. Forrest, with his heart of gold and his gilded IQ, never gives up. He always looks for the best in every scenario. The movie opens with a feather floating down over the city, landing at Forrest’s feet. Near the end of the story, Forrest questions, “Do we each have a destiny - or do we just float around accidental, like on a breeze?” As you are contemplating this question, the feather reappears and floats through the countryside right up into the ending credits, forcing the viewer reexamine his/her own lot in life.

Overall, this box of chocolates hits all the right places to make a viewer happy when finishing and looking to watch again to see the subtle differences that embody not just the characters in the film, but the characters in our own lives.

**Review *The Dark Knight Rises*:**

Christopher Nolan brings yet another adrenaline-filled, comic-inspired movie to the big screen.  We see all sorts of familiar faces this time around, but the audience is introduced to a few new characters as well.

Christian Bale stars as both the classic caped crusader and his billionaire alter-ego, Bruce Wayne. In this third installment of Christopher Nolan’s *Batman* films, Bruce Wayne no longer feels that the City of Gotham needs a hero and goes on a secluded hiatus. However, when a new villain, Bane (Tom Hardy), threatens Gotham City, Wayne dons his cape and mask once more.  When crisis threatens Gotham City, Bruce Wayne jumps back into the Batmobile to fight crime. Batman is joined on his quest by an eager orphaned cop (Joseph Gordon-Levitt), a seductive cat burglar (Anne Hathaway), and a violent masked villain (Tom Hardy).

This film served as great entertainment with its colorful cast and numerous plot twists. Nolan used actors that had either appeared in previous *Batman*films or in his blockbuster hit *Inception*, and all of them shone in their respective roles: Tom Hardy was almost unrecognizable in his Bane costume, while Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Marion Cotillard were both excellent—and obviously comfortable with Nolan’s directing style and the film’s dramatic tone.

The one actor that gave this reviewer pause was Anne Hathaway as Selina Kyle. She has historically been typecast as the girl next door, so it was a shock to watch her steal and fight her way through the City of Gotham. After a few scenes, however, we were convinced that the casting decisions was a good one, as Hathaway portrayed the darker Catwoman role brilliantly.

True to Nolan’s style, at 164 minutes, this film is fairly long. There were a few times when the movie felt a bit drawn out, but the gorgeous action scenes and impressive dialogue really held the audience’s attention and kept them on the edge of their seats. However, the timeline was a bit unclear at times. For a number of scenes, it was hard to tell whether it had been days or months or years that had passed since the last time a given character had been on screen.

Despite the films minor shortcomings, *The Dark Knight Rises* is exciting, creative, and dark—and well worth a few hours of your time.

**Attributes of a Review of a Film, Book, Album, Song**

Below are specific characteristics of these reviews. While reading a few reviews, analyze how each text exemplifies these characteristics in preparation to show proficiency in the learning target, “Use exemplar texts to accomplish a writing task.”

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Text title:** | | | **Subject:** |
| **Attribute** | **Example** | **Text words** | **Effect on the reader** |
| **Summary of the text** | Paraphrase of key points without spoiling ending |  |  |
| **Plentiful, powerful adjectives** | This **epic** journey takes the **enraptured** reader through **tumultuous** events |  |  |
| **Hyperbolic language** | “Best ever”  “Hundreds of”  “Never before” |  |  |
| **Metaphors** | The buckets of sunshine pour from this product |  |  |
| **Connections to the emotions of the reader** | Pulling at your heart strings, your will laugh and cry as you read… |  |  |
| **Connections to other texts (Allusions)** | As if he was the **Wizard of Oz** himself, … |  |  |
| **Connections to the human condition** | Much like that awkward first date we all remember, Jimmy… |  |  |

Based on my analysis in the boxes above, below is a justification of a 4.0 score my face partner earned in the learning target, ““Use exemplar texts to produce writing.”

Original author:

Editor: