

OUTLINE FOR A FILM ESSAY

Remember—do not use personal pronouns like “I” or “me.” This is an objective essay—it is not a review.

This is a great formula for writing an essay—but you do not have to follow it exactly. It is merely a tool to help you succeed! Feel free to stick to it or be creative!

INTRODUCTION

- Start with some background information on the film; i.e., the name of the film, genre, director
- Very brief summary (2-3 sentences at most)
- What your essay is about (like themes you will discuss/point of the essay)
- End your intro with a thesis statement—remember to sum up your three body paragraphs in specific points
 - ***Example:*** In *Psycho*, Alfred Hitchcock uses setting, lighting, and symbolism to expose characters’ true feelings.

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

- Start with a topic sentence that echoes your thesis
 - ***Example:*** The first way Hitchcock exposes characters’ true feelings is through setting.
- Then write about a **specific scene (or two)** in the film that uses setting to show characters’ true feelings—***this is the true analysis—be thorough and complete!***

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

- Topic sentence
 - ***Example:*** The second way Hitchcock exposes characters’ true feelings is through lighting.
- Then write about a **specific scene (or two)** in the film that uses lighting to show characters’ true feelings —***this is the true analysis—be thorough and complete!***

BODY PARAGRAPH 3

- Topic sentence
 - **Example:** The final way Hitchcock exposes characters' true feelings is through symbolism.
- Then write about a **specific scene (or two)** in the film that uses symbolism to show characters' true feelings —*this is the true analysis—be thorough and complete!*

CONCLUSION

- Restate your thesis
- Sum up your ideas
- Write about what makes the film analysis-worthy
- End with some sort of punch or something for the reader to think further about