

Moments of Awareness and Change

This week you watched a “coming of age” movie - a movie in which the main character(s) grows up and develops in some way. It is usually a combination of things including physical changes, emotional maturity, and personal growth. It also usually involves challenging situations, which can be either positive or negative, that force a person to act and see things in new ways.

For today’s writing, I’ve asked you to think about moments of awareness and moments of change in the movie you watched. Earlier in the week, I defined these terms this way:

- A moment of awareness is when a character realizes something for the first time or when a character understands something in a new way
- A moment of change is when a character acts in different ways or develops new beliefs or becomes something other than what they used to be

Start by making a copy of this document to use for your writing.

Next, think of two examples of each type of moment from the movie you watched. Enter them into the first chart (it’s on the next page) and answer the questions with a few words or a sentence or two.

From the film you watched:

Moments of Awareness		
Describe this piece of the plot/story - what happens in the film at this moment?	Describe the new awareness - what is it the character realizes for the first time or understands in a new way?	Describe the impact on the character - what happens as a result of this new awareness? (This might not be clear until later in the film, if at all)
Moments of Change		
Describe this piece of the plot/story - what happens in the film at this moment?	Describe the change - how does the character acts in different ways or develops new beliefs or becomes something other than what they used to be?	Describe the impact on the character or on others - what happens as a result of this change? Is it positive or negative?

Next, it is time to turn your attention to yourself and your experiences! You are going to fill out a similar chart but instead of using examples from the film, you will use details from your own life. The moments can be hugely significant ones or minor ones you might never have thought about before. The moments can come from any time in your life, from your earliest memories to elementary school to today! Spend some time brainstorming some possibilities before you complete the chart.

From your life:

Moments of Awareness		
Describe this time in your life - what is happening in your life this moment?	Describe the new awareness - what is it you realized for the first time or understood in a new way?	Describe the impact of this awareness on you - what happens as a result of this new awareness?
Moments of Change		
Describe this time in your life - what is happening in your life this moment?	Describe the change - how do you act in different ways or develop new beliefs or becomes something other than what you used to be?	Describe the impact of this change on you - what happens as a result of this change? Is it positive or negative?

Now it is time to use the information in these charts with two short pieces of writing:

1. Choose one moment of awareness or change from the film and one from your experiences. In what ways are these similar/different, other than the details of what happens? Push your thinking here to go beyond the obvious!
2. Now that you've had some time to think about personal moments of awareness and change, choose one to tell a fuller version of. Combine what you wrote in the three columns of the chart into a paragraph version of the story of that moment.

When you are done, please submit this to Schoology. I hope you found this first part of writing about your story to be meaningful and interesting!