

Topics in Composition: Film Analysis: Types of Analyses SPARK Note Guide

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TERM	DEFINITION
Movie Review	The function of a movie review is to introduce <i>new</i> films to the reader, and to either recommend or not recommend them. This is the most casual form of film analysis.
Theoretical Essay	A theoretical essay is on the other side of the film analysis spectrum. A paper written in this manner operates with the assumption that its reader is well acquainted with not a certain movie, but rather the history of film as a whole, as its author often delves into the intricacies of the medium.
Critical Essay	A critical essay is the midpoint between a movie review and theoretical essay. It operates with the assumption that the reader is familiar with a certain movie, although perhaps not entirely aware of its intricacies, for the main purpose of this kind of paper is to bring attention to more minute details that may have slipped the mind of a more casual viewer. This is the kind of essay you will write in this course.