

Intro. to Psychology
Mr. Bruce

ASSIGNMENT: Write a well-organized, critical analysis of the film, *A Beautiful Mind*.

DUE DATE: Thursday, January 14, 2016

REQUIREMENTS:

- Your analysis should be at least 3 typed pages (minimum) – this does not include the title or references page.
- It should be in standard academic format (double-spaced, one-inch margins, 12-point *Times New Roman* font or equivalent)
- It should utilize at least three sources (you may use your textbook and the film itself as sources).

CONTENT:

- Begin by briefly describing the plot of the film (like a film critic would)
- State your position on the value of this film from a psychological standpoint
- Discuss the psychological elements that were shown in the film (use the question sheet I gave you to use while watching the film).
- How well did this film portray schizophrenia and its effects on the human mind? What aspects were accurately portrayed? What aspects were overblown?
- Discuss how the characters with mental illness were treated in the film, including the extent to which typical assumptions about mental illness are supported or challenged by the content of the film.

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR ANY CRITICAL ANALYSIS:

What was the main purpose of the material?

- o To inform with factual material?
- o To persuade with appeal to reason or emotions?
- o To entertain?

Evaluate the means by which the author/artist has accomplished his purpose

- If the purpose is to inform, has the material been presented clearly, accurately, with order and coherence?
- If the purpose is to persuade, look for evidence, logical reasoning, contrary evidence

- If the purpose was to entertain, determine how emotions are affected: does it make you laugh, cry, angry? Why/how did it affect you?

REMEMBER:

Avoid introducing your ideas by stating, "I think" or "in my opinion." Keep the focus on the subject of your analysis, not on yourself. Identifying your opinions weakens them. Always introduce the work. Do not assume that because your reader knows what you are writing about, you do not need to mention the work's title or describe/summarize the work.

Is there any controversy surrounding the subject?

What about the subject matter is of current interest?

What is the overall value of the work?

What are its strengths and weaknesses?

Support your thesis with evidence/examples. Do not forget to document quotes (For example a quote from your textbook = Myers, 2015, p. 640) and paraphrases (Textbook = Myers, 2015) or (Film = Howard, 2001).

Remember that the purpose of a critical analysis is not merely to inform, but also to evaluate the worth, utility, excellence, distinction, truth, validity, beauty, or goodness of something.

Even though as a writer you set the standards, you should be open-minded, well informed, and fair. You can express your opinions, but you should also back them up with evidence.

Your review should provide information, interpretation, and evaluation. The information will help your reader understand the nature of the work under analysis. The interpretation will explain the meaning of the work, therefore requiring your correct understanding of it. The evaluation will discuss your opinions of the work and present valid justification for them.

A critical analysis is not just a negative piece of writing, even though its name might lead you to think so. Many students assume their teacher wants them to say something negative about their subject when asking them to write a critical analysis. When you are critical, you are able to discern or make a judgment about the relative quality of something.