

FILM ANALYSIS

Analysis Paragraph

What makes a good response?

- Topic sentence that gives an overview of what will be discussed. Generally incorporates the prompt/question.
- Supporting examples (2-3 examples are sufficient) and complete explanations that include context (references what is happening in the work), and analysis (what it means/filmmaker's purpose).
- Concluding sentence that sums up the entire response.
- A full, complete paragraph should be at least 5-7 sentences.

Other things to consider:

- **Organization:** Beware of having a topic sentence that is too broad like the following:
 - **Too broad:** The director shows many different feelings...
 - **More specific:** The director shows sadness and guilt...
 - **Too broad:** The director shows the differences in classes...
 - **More specific:** The director shows how different classes have different morals and standards...
- **Ideas:** Make sure to avoid summarizing the film. This is **not a plot summary**, it is an **analysis**. Focus on how a filmmaker gets his/her point across, and why s/he makes that choice.
- **Word Choice:** Use the word **film** rather than **movie**. It is more academic and formal.
- **Voice:** Avoid personal pronouns like "I," and be careful not to get into "review territory." An **analysis is not a review**, so whether you like the film or not is irrelevant. Writing things like "the director did a great job" or "I really liked this film" are not objective analyses.
- **Conventions:** Write in the **present tense**, just like when writing about literature. *Example:*
 - **Wrong:** The use of high and low angles was used before the father launched himself. The camera had a high angle that symbolizes the father was weak and insignificant.
 - **Right:** The use of high and low angles is used before the father launches himself. The director uses a high angle which symbolizes the father being weak and insignificant.

Developing a paragraph/topic...

- **THEME/PURPOSE/POINT**
- **TOOLS THAT ARE USED TO SHOWCASE THAT**

TOPIC SENTENCE:

The director of ***[insert film name]*** shows ***[insert theme]*** through ***[insert film element(s)]***.