Rationale: In both Ip Man and The City of God characters are used to symbolize and stand for greater factors. We see how characters in both films can be used to represent societal groups and mindsets. We also see how reputation and violence play major parts in effecting the interactions between characters in the mentioned films. Reputation played a major role in Ip Man and characters act according to how their reputation is affected. Characters in The City of God rely on reputation in order to survive. Violence is used in both films to assert authority.

Word Count: 95 Words

Characters are used throughout film not only to advance the plot but also as symbols and motifs to higher themes.	Fade from black to a montage of characters from both the movies: Ip Man and City of God
Many characters in film serve as complex symbols that cover a variety of topics	Shot of Knockout Ned on the bus collecting money and handing out tickets.
In both the films The City of God and Ip Man we see how characters are used not only to symbolize greater societal groups but also to convey greater ideas and thoughts	Continuous montage of characters from both films. Shots include: -Lil Ze' Taking out a gun and shooting - Ip Man Practicing with the wooden post - Rocket Taking Pictures - The General Preparing to Fight
For example, In the City of God, many characters are used as symbols to portray not only individuals but groups of individuals as a whole	Scene of Knockout Ned holding up the gun store
We see the character "Knockout Ned" as one prime example of this motif. Ned serves to symbolize those that are changed by temptation.	Scene where Ned is introduced along with his backstory

Ned is introduced as a character who managed to escape the favela. We see how he lives his life and we learn that his overall position on violence is almost completely against it	Scenes of Ned growing up and leaving the favelas accompanied by scenes that emphasize the violence and poverty of the favelas
As the film progresses, Ned joins forces with carrot in order to get revenge on Lil Ze'. Ned ends up falling into the very lifestyle he worked so hard to escape from.	Scene of Ned and Carrot discussing matters while in Carrots house (The Gangs meeting spot)
Later in the film we see Ned lose almost all of his previous ideals. He begins shooting anyone that even remotely interferes with his operations and gives into the power he now posesses.	Scene of Ned robbing the Weapon store and of him robbing the bank and shooting the innocent man
He can be seen a symbol of anyone else who gives into some sort of temptation. Ned can even be related to that of a chronic smoker that after finally shaking off his addiction starts up smoking again.	Shot of a man smoking a cigarette (either from the film of stock footage)
Characters in Ip Man are also widely used as symbols. For example, Li Zhao can represent those that are afraid to stand up for a cause they believe in	Shot introducing Li Zhao as a chinese policeman. Followed by the scene of him at Jin and Ip's brawl.
Originally a chinese soldier, Li Zhao becomes a japanese translator during the invasion.	Shot of Li with Sato translating for Ip. Specifically the shot where Ip Man first reunited with

He is constantly abused and mistreated yet he does nothing to stand up for himself or his nation	Li after the japanese takeover Shot of Ip Man scolding Li Zhao for betraying his people and leaving the chinese.
By the end of the film however, Li Zhao switches attitudes and pulls through at the last second to save Ip Man from being killed. He ended up coming around and experienced a shift in bravery.	Shot of Sato Shooting Ip Man. Followed by the moments in time when Li fights Sato for the gun and shoots him in the head.
Li Zhao can represent those afraid to stand up for what they believe in or for what is right.	Shot of Li as a Translator
He can be related to a child at a playground that is being bullied but is too timid to take direct action	Shot of Li getting beaten by Sato and bruised Followed by stock footage of a child being bullied at a playground by a bigger kid
Both films manage to use characters as larger symbols. We can also see how each film conveys the theme and idea of ones reputation as a larger picture Reputation played large roles in	Shots of both Knockout Ned and Li Zhao as their respective roles (Preferably a mixture of shots previously used and shots unused at the time)

both Ip Man and The City of God	Shot of Ip Man at dinner while Master Liu waits to fight him.
Reputation played a large role in traditional chinese culture and is taken very seriously. One might as well be considered dead after losing his or her reputation.	The previous shot is continued and transitions to Ip and Master Liu's practice fight.
We see in Ip Man, how important reputation truly is through the character of Master Liu.	As The following line is read a separate shot of MAster Liu is shown and the camera cuts back to their fight. The restaurant owner's brother is watching through the window as Master Liu loses to Ip Man
In the start of the film we see Master Liu challenge Ip Man. An important thing to take note of is the nature of the fight.	
	Flashback to Master Liu Asking Ip Man to fight him at his house
Master Liu asks to fight him in private and begs for Ip Man not to tell others the result of the spar.	
	Scene where Master Liu loses and asks Ip Man not to tell anyone the outcome
We can see how important reputation is to Master Liu's character.	
	Shot of Master Liu being relieved as he finds out Ip Man will keep the brawl a secret
On the same side of the spectrum we see Jin's character. Jin on the other hand want everyone to see his battles, he is confident	

of his power and wants others to understand how strong he is, directly boosting his reputation.	Shot of Jin walking into town and challenging the different Masters. We see him progress through all the fighters with ease
We also see the importance of one's reputation through the character that is the younger brother of the restaurant owner.	Scene of Jin eating with his crew bragging about his numerous victories
	Shot of the restaurant owner's brother talking to a group of guys about the fight between Ip Man and Master Liu and the overall outcome of the battle
In the film, he is the one that lets the town know of Master Liu's defeat by Ip Man. He faces the consequences and to prove a point his older brother pulls his pants down in front of everyone to degrade his own reputation and show him what humiliation feels like.	Shot of Master Liu walking confidently into town until he hears news that the outcome of his fight got out. When he confronts Ip Man and the mass of people find out that the brother told, the restaurant owner comes out angrily and scolds him. To prove a point he pulls down his brothers pants in front of everyone to show him what humiliation feels like
This simple event drove him to follow and join a rogue group of guerilla thieves	
This may seem foolish and overdramatic to our western points of view but in the ers and region it was considered an abomination.	Shot of Jin's Gang attacking the cotton mill. We see Ip Mans young cousin recognize the brother and he looks ashamed
	Flashback of the brother running

In The City of God we see how reputation is used and viewed through Lil Ze's character.	away and forward to his affiliation with the gang.
Lil Ze Directly relies on reputation to maintain his power in the slums. He needs a strong reputation to prevent any challengers from stepping up and threatening his position	Shot of Lil Ze' in the meeting house followed by a shot of him as a young boy with the group
To assert his authority and reputation Lil Ze' resorts to harsh acts of violence. For example he made a young child have to pick which one of his friends to kill. This was an act made to show dominance and it worked...	Shot of Lil Ze with the children. he hits one and they all run. He gets his men to chase after them and traps two of them in a corner. He then asks the two kids where they want to be shot, the hand or the foot. The child his foot so Lil Ze' does the opposite and shoots him in the hand to show his cruelty and authority
That is up until the point Lil Ze' lost his reputation. As soon as the children realized that he was nothing when he was singled out they made their move and took his place.	The following scene played in which Lil Ze' brings out another child and forces him to chose with of his friends to shoot. The kid hesitates but realizes he has no choice and eventually shoots one of the two.
	Shot of Lil Ze' meeting with the crooked cops and making a deal.

This shows that reputation is what may end up keeping you alive in the line on fire	This shot is followed by the children coming out and shooting Lil Ze' multiple times.
Both films also contain massive amounts of violence. They are used in different forms but both convey the same motive	Shot of the children talking about taking out one of the big bosses
In Ip Man, violence is seen as a way to show dominance through fair competition, Whereas in The City of God, violence is used out of hatred and cruelty to prove a variety of points	Compilation of shots consisting of fighting and kung fu in Ip Man and street violence such as shooting in The City of God
We see in Ip Man, that violence is used as sport. Almost all the fighting done in the film is planned and agreed on by both parties	Shot of Master Liu fighting the japanese soldier on the mat. He wins a bag of rice as a reward. Followed by the scene where Lil Ze' (At the time Lil Dice) goes into the hotel and shoots all the inhabitants leaving absolutely no survivors.
the characters view violence as a means of competition used to assert power over each other. Characters such as the Master Liu and General view violence as fun and enjoy participating in fights	Fight of Ip Man and Jin about to fight. They both give the proper gesture to each other done at the beginning of each fight. Another shot of Master Liu and Ip Man doing the same gesture as well as the general and Ip man doing the same gesture

to show off their power	Shot of Master Liu and the japanese soldier brawling
Although characters like Sato view violence similarly to those in The City of God	Another shot of Master Liu preparing to fight Jin as he challenges him
Both Sato and the inhabitants of the slums use violence to get what they want	Scene of Sato brutally and violently beating Li Zhao with a club because Li does not know why Ip Man hasnt returned to fight the soldiers and accept the generals invitation to fight
Sato uses violence to get information out of characters and to threaten them just as the citizens of the favelas use violence to get what they want or in most case what they need to survive	Shot of Ned robbing the gun store
One can also note that actions and intentions can have deeper meanings in film. It is not solely character based and executed	Shot of Sato beating Li Zhao (A different time then the scene just preceding the bank robbery scene) This is followed by scenes depicting crime is the favela and slums. We see children shooting each other and robbing stores, as well as Lil Ze shooting others
Both The City of God and Ip Man show underlying symbols and motifs in both characters and interactions	More shots of violence in the slums and
Ip Man tends to stay more	

competitive with how it portrays symbols but The City of God becomes almost vicious in the way it portrays these symbols.	Scene where Ip man fights all 10 soldiers at once and wins without struggle
Both films together show how underlying messages can be sent and conveyed through almost any form, living or not.	Shot of Ip Man defeating the general and fighting to instill hope in his nation and his people followed by Lil Dice shooting and laughing from it. Montage of characters and scenes from both films.

Annotated Bibliography:

http://brianair.wordpress.com/film-analysis/city-of-god/
Provided excellent evidence and ideas toward to symbolism seen through each individual character and provided a lot of inspiration for the beginning of the script

http://cinephile.ca/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/carlsten-cityofgod.pdf
Provided a great amount of reference to the reason for violence in The City God. Gave a better understanding of the topic and provided reference for my reasoning

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ip_Man_%28film%29
Provided quick reference for my ideas. used to check authenticity and overall plot relevance.

http://sitemaker.umich.edu/oysermanlab/files/10_ch_uskul_et_al_culture___survey_response_3_mc.pdf
Interesting read on the value of honor specifically in eastern culture and tradition. Was helpful in understanding the thinking and mindsets of the characters in the film.