**Film Analysis Essay Assignment Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

For our final project of the Film studies unit, we are going to do a film analysis. This can be an analysis of a film we watched in class, or it can be of a film you have watched at home.

**Requirements**

* 1 page minimum (but it should probably be longer than one page)
* Times New Roman, 12-point font
* Double spaced
* Include an MLA citation of the film you analyzed
* Give the essay a title that is more creative than “Essay”

**MLA Citation for a Film or Movie**

Title of Film. Screenplay by Firstname Lastname. Dir. Firstname Lastname. Perf. Firstname Lastname. Company, Year.

All names are formatted Firstname Lastname.

Dir. = director.

Perf. = top three actors/actresses; major stars.

Example:

Sherlock Holmes. Screenplay by Michael Robert Johnson, Anthony Peckham, and Simon

Kinberg. Dir. Guy Ritchie. Perf. Robert Downey, Jr., Jude Law, and Rachel McAdams. Warner Bros., 2009.

**How do you set up your analysis?**

Introduction Paragraph

* Begin with a clever hook (attention-grabber).
* Include some general information about your film or movies as a whole.
* The last line in your intro paragraph should be your thesis.
	+ Your thesis should roughly answer the question, “What does the read-a-movie analysis allow the audience to discover about the film(s) that regular viewing would not?”
	+ Your thesis should include the title of the film, properly punctuated. (Films are *italicized* or underlined, but not both.)

Analysis Paragraphs

* At least one (1) paragraph for each level (literary, dramatic, cinematic).
* Give specific example of details you noticed in the film and what these observations mean.
	+ Literary
		- Who are the characters in the film? Describe them.
		- What is the film’s setting? Consider: place, time, location, area.
		- Briefly summarize the plot, especially the conflict and resolutions.
		- From whose point of view is the story told?
		- What is a theme, moral, or message of the film?
		- What is the mood?
		- What symbols did you notice in the film?
		- What is the genre?
	+ Dramatic
		- What actors or actresses star in this movie? How is the acting?
		- Directo? What is the director known for?
		- What are the costumes and makeup like? Give details.
		- What props are in the film? Be specific.
		- What makes the set/location effective or unusual?
		- What acting, sets, makeup, or costumes attract your attention because they are flawed in some way? (Continuity errors?)
	+ Cinematic
		- What camera shots are noticeable? What do they represent or symbolize?
		- What camera angles stand out? What do they represent or symbolize?
		- How does the camera move? What does the movement represent or symbolize?
		- What durations do shots have? How does the amount of time affect the message or meaning of the scene?
		- What editing or special effects are present?
		- What are the sources of sound in the film? How does the soundtrack affect the mood?

**Conclusion Paragraph**

* Restate (reword) your thesis.
* Review or summarize the main points and ideas from your analysis.
* End with a kicker that sends the reader out thinking.

**Due Date:**