

MOVIE REVIEW GUIDELINES
WORLD HISTORY
Summer Assignment 2018

Due Date: August 30

Film Analysis Objective: Much of the work of a historian is devoted to recognizing bias and perspective in various works. Film is another medium for historical preservation as well as distortion. The objective of this assignment is to make the world history student aware of the bias, perspective and distortion at times in the cinematic world.

Directions:

1. Select a film from the list provided. **Make certain that your parents approve of the film before you view it!!** Remember, some movies on the list carry an R rating for very good reasons, usually fairly graphic historical violence. *If you choose a movie rated R, you must get parent permission and attach it to your assignment when you turn it in.*
2. Watch the film. You may want to take notes while viewing. You may want to view the film more than once.
3. Write your movie review. Your review must be one to two pages, typed (double-spaced). It must begin with the title of the movie and the name of the director. You must answer the following questions in the course of your paper.
 - A. If the film is based upon a historical event or person, how true to life is the film? Is the film fact or fiction? Is there bias? Is there inaccurate information? Were the popular stereotypes (attitudinal or imaged) about different kinds of people challenged or reinforced? If you use any sources to help evaluate accuracy, you must cite them in your paper.
 - B. Describe the main characters. Briefly summarize the plot.
 - C. How is the film structured? Determine the movie's pivotal scenes. Is there a climax and a resolution? Is there closure by film's end?
 - D. Identify the film's central theme. Identify any subtext (the message beneath the surface). Does the film have an original theme or a traditional theme? Is the theme of the film successfully supported by the acting, scene transition, etc.?
 - E. Lastly, please research the movie for any historical inconsistencies. Where do the filmmakers get history wrong? Do they change history? Do they lie? Why do you think they changed it? What does this say about the filmmaker?

Any student caught plagiarizing their review will not be eligible to receive credit for the assignment and will not be allowed to make up the work.

Plagiarism is "the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own." This includes, but is not limited to, copying and pasting, paraphrasing, re-writing, choosing key phrases from other's work, or any time you use someone else's work and pass it along as your own. **When in doubt, do not use it.**

Suggested Films for Review:

Films with a known R rating are noted. However, others on the list may be rated R and are not noted. If you have a film you would like to add to the list, please bring it to the attention of your teacher.

Spartacus	Tea with Mussolini
Ben Hur	Escape from Sobibor
The King and I	Schindler's List (R)
Elizabeth (R)	Hotel Rwanda
King Arthur	Midway
Braveheart (R)	Tora! Tora! Tora!
Gladiator (R)	All Quiet on the Western Front
Mary, Queen of Scots	Der Untergang/Downfall (R)
Lawrence of Arabia	Dr. Zhivago
Mulan	The Sound of Music
The Mission (R)	The Pianist (R)
Fiddler on the Roof	Casablanca
The Ten Commandments	The Hiding Place
Troy (R)	Jacob the Liar
Last Samurai (R)	Swing Kids
Band of Brothers	Enemy at the Gates (R)
Boy in the Striped Pajamas	The Diary of Anne Frank
Evita	
The Killing Fields (R)	Gandhi
The Year of Living Dangerously	The Last Emperor
Roots	Inglourious Basterds (R)
Dr. Strangelove	Joan of Arc
Black Hawk Down (R)	Defiance (R)
A Knight's Tale	300 (R)
Joyeux Noel	Kingdom of Heaven (R)
Letters from Iwo Jima (R)	Zulu
The Iron Lady	Cleopatra
Apocalypto (R)	

Parent Permission for Movie:

I give my student, _____, permission to watch the above chosen movie. I understand that this movie is Rated 'R' and may show scenes of a violent, sexual, or otherwise adult nature.

Movie Chosen: _____

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____