

## Writing Assignment: Media Analysis

You are required to submit the FINAL copy of this assignment, but you may first submit an optional DRAFT. This will allow you to receive qualitative feedback that can inform your revision. You should always avoid focusing solely on the grader's DRAFT feedback; use the feedback as a supplement to the course lessons and your own revision ideas. Always expect to revise beyond what the DRAFT grader specifically notes if you want to improve your score.

For this media analysis, you will analyze how one part affects the whole media production. Note that you should select only a single piece of media; you should not be discussing more than one film, for example. You should choose **one**<sup>1</sup> of the following parts to explore:

- **Genre:** Explain how the production you chose fits into its genre.
- **Camera:** Analyze how the camera's use (camera angles, for instance) affects the overall production.
- **Lighting:** Describe how lighting is used to enhance or detract from the production.
- **Actors/Characters:** Analyze how the actors **OR** the characters themselves enhance or detract from the production.
- **Symbols:** Explain what the symbols are and how their usage affects the overall production.
- **Music:** Describe how the music enhances or detracts from the media production.
- **Sound Effects:** Analyze how the sound effects enhance or detract from the production.
- **Special Effects:** Explain what special effects are used and how they affect the viewing experience.
- **Comparison to a Literary Work:** (Note: This option may only be chosen if the film you chose is also in print form.) How are the book and film similar? How are they different? Which is better, and why?

Your purpose in this assignment is to explain how or why something works; therefore, you should **not** include a full summary of the media production. Instead, you can provide context where needed so the reader understands what is happening. The body of the essay must

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<sup>1</sup> Please review the rubric and note that you will not earn full credit if you analyze more than one of these components.

focus on your *analysis*. You can use the ideas contained in the Media Analysis lesson presentation and the Writer's Handbook link to help you.

As with all college writing, your essay should have a strong thesis statement in addition to an introduction, body, and conclusion.

Other than your chosen film, television show, and/or book, you are *required* to cite at least *one other credible*<sup>2</sup> source for this essay. [This resource](#) from the course will help you understand more about evaluating sources. Moreover, if you use *specific information* from the media production and/or print source, such as a quotations, you should include your chosen media source on your Works Cited page, too. Use proper parenthetical citations or signal phrases, and be sure to include MLA documentation and a Works Cited page for this assignment ([this resource](#) from the course will help).

Review the rubric to see how your work will be assessed on this assignment.

Thesis hints: You might use these guidelines in crafting your thesis:

**If you are analyzing elements in a production:**

In (add your *one* chosen production), (add character 1), (add character 2), and (add character 3) were used to (add how they enhanced the production or explained the production's message).

OR

**If you are comparing/contrasting a book and film:**

(Add book) contained (add one aspect that made the book better than the film), but (add film) used (add one aspect that made the film better than the book) and (add a second aspect that made the film better than the book) to better capture the reader's imagination.

Here are more specific thesis guidelines:

**If you are analyzing elements in a production:**

In the movie *The Lorax*, the characters Lorax, Once-ler, and Alocius O'Hare were used to show how environmentalists are fighting against profit-driven industries that are harming the environment and depleting natural resources.

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<sup>2</sup> Please note: Basic dictionary sources, user-edited websites (e.g., Wikipedia, eHow, etc.), and sites that house databases of quotations are not considered "credible" sources. You will lose points in the Research category of the rubric if your sources aren't credible.

OR

**If you are comparing/contrasting a book and film:**

Even though the characters were portrayed mostly the same across the book and the movie in Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight*, the setting in the movie was much more detailed, which made the movie a much better overall experience compared to the book.

The guidelines for this assignment are as follows:

**Length:** This assignment should be at least 500 words.

**Header:** Include a header in the upper left-hand corner of your writing assignment with the following information:

- Your first and last name
- Course Title (Composition II)
- Assignment name (Media Analysis)
- Current Date

**Format:**

- MLA-style source documentation and Works Cited<sup>3</sup>
- Your last name and page number in the upper-right corner of each page
- Double-spacing throughout
- Standard font (TimesNewRoman, Calibri)
- Title, centered after heading
- 1" margins on all sides
- Save the file using one of the following extensions: .docx, .doc, .rtf, or .txt

**Underline your thesis statement in the introductory paragraph.**

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<sup>3</sup> This resource may be helpful as you are making MLA formatting decisions:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>