

Movie Score Analysis Dos and Don'ts

DO:

- Review the information on the class website before beginning.
- Spend no more than one page total on introduction and plot synopsis. Therefore
- Spend at least two pages on music.
- Focus on the music that was composed by the composer specifically for your film. Source music is important, but discuss it only if you can shed light on its significance.
- Organize your paper logically, with well-constructed paragraphs, sentences and proper punctuation.
- Edit your paper before turning it in.

DO NOT:

-Do not do any research outside of the movie itself. All you need is in the movie. This is an analysis paper, not a research paper. Do not include the opinions of others. Your opinions are all that matter here. Including researched information could negatively impact your paper's grade.

If you chose to include researched information, and I strongly recommend you don't, follow these guidelines.

- Cite all outside information.
- If you retrieve information from the special feature options that are included with the movie, cite the DVD as a source.
- If you augment your title page with artwork from the film such as the movie's poster or DVD cover art, cite your source.
- **Keep in mind that even one missed source can earn you a grade of 0%.**

-DO NOT utilize outside sources. However, if you do, and I strongly recommend you don't, then cite your source for all information that comes from outside the film. This includes the contents of special features.

-DO NOT plagiarize. See the syllabus or the student handbook for its definition.

-DO NOT work on this paper with a friend. Do your own work.

-DO NOT consult the soundtrack for information. It is not necessary that you properly label each music cue in the score. Do not review the soundtrack.

-DO NOT discuss every entrance of music in the film. The opening music and the music in one scene is all that is required, except for an overview of the score.

-DO NOT exceed five pages unless you believe the movie music requires it.

-DO NOT write less than three pages.

-DO NOT write a review of a film that is not on the list in the syllabus.

-DO NOT watch the movie on commercial television. Movies with commercial interruptions are highly edited and you may miss important scenes or parts of scenes.