

Film Review Review

For your first assignment, you will take a closer look at your personal responses to film, and compare your response to a few people who evaluate films for a living. Hopefully in doing so, you will get a better understanding of where your tastes come from.

First, choose a new movie to see. This has to be a movie that you have not seen before. It does not have to be a movie that is in theaters; you can rent a movie or borrow one from a friend.

Then, find two reviews of the movie. You can get these from print sources, or online (we will be in the lab tomorrow to give you a chance to look for these), but they must be professional reviews – no postings on a message board or user comments. You may want to look at The Movie Review Query Engine (www.mrqe.com), which lists a number of different reviews for new and old movies.

You may watch the movie first and then read the reviews, or read the reviews before you see the movie. Your final piece of writing should discuss each review separately as well as your own personal reaction (you can use headings to separate them). Below is a list of questions to cover, but your writing should be organized into paragraph form.

For each review:

- What aspects of the movie did the reviewer focus on the most? (some possibilities: direction, acting, story, costume/scenery, editing, cinematography)
- What elements of a good story (from yesterday's notes) did the reviewer mention, if any?
- What did the reviewer see as being the focus of the movie (from today's notes)?
- Can you see any place where the personal tastes of the reviewer clouded their judgment? (for example, perhaps you get the idea that the reviewer doesn't like complex stories, and so unfairly criticized the film for being complicated)

For your reaction

- Using the "Elements of a Good Story," evaluate the story-telling. Use specific examples to support your claims.
- Describe the focus of the movie, using your notes on different foci. Evaluate how successfully the movie fulfills that focus.

- Describe how much you agree or disagree with the reviewers. Be sure to indicate where the disagreement arises from your own personal preferences, and where it is a matter of bad judgment on their part.

Your final copy should be typed in 12-point font and double-spaced. It is due
