**WRITING an OP-DOC Review
Common Task: Evaluate a Work of Art
You will review a documentary OP-DOC of your choice to be submitted to the school newspaper for publication.**



**Your final review must…**

* be typed, double spaced, size 12, Calibri font
* have a creative title (headline for a school newspaper, centered)
* have proper MLA heading: upper left: Name, Teacher, Course, Date
* be reviewed by at least one classmate for content (peer feedback slip required)
* address all the aspects listed below
* be carefully spellchecked and proofread
* be at least 4 paragraphs

**Audience:**Imagine you are writing your review for the school newspaper. Why should teens view this film? What can they learn? What might entertain them? What might they relate to?

|  |
| --- |
| **PARAGRAPH 1:****I. Lead/Introduction**Film reviewers call the introduction a lead and use it to draw the reader into the body of the review. A lead provides a broad outline of the importance of the film, which may have to do with the actors, the novel from which the film may have been adapted, social issues explored in the film, or some other noteworthy feature. Once this general introduction has been made, the rest of the film review should deal with specific details. The conclusion of your review should relate back to the lead in some way. * **Since this film is a documentary, be sure to do some research and discuss HOW the film looks at history. You should include at least one quote from the director’s essay.**

**II. Plot**The plot is the pattern of events in the main story of the film. A film review should summarize the main events in the film, but **leave some mystery** so that the reader is still interested and wants to actually watch the film. Think about the beginning, middle, and end of the film and fill in the key events for each section. Summarize these events but be careful not to give away details, which will ruin the surprise or enjoyment of the film for the reader. * **Your summary should be no more than 2-3 sentences.**
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **PARAGRAPH 2:****III. Theme** The theme is the message or recurring idea in the film. In addition to a major theme, there may be minor themes, which you also wish to explore. You should evaluate how effectively the theme is explored by commenting on specific scenes and characters. As always, the more specifically you support your ideas with examples, the clearer your argument will be to the reader. * **Discuss at least one major theme you feel the film addresses. Discuss if you believe the film successfully addresses the theme.**

**IV. Subjects**You will need to evaluate and discuss at least one key subject in the film. Discuss how they are developed/characterized. * **Be sure to discuss how the character changes, if at all.**
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **PARAGRAPH 3:****V. Technical Elements**Technical elements are used by the film director to enhance communication and make the film more entertaining. Each effect in the film represents a choice the director made. As a film reviewer, you will need to comment on these choices and whether or not they improve the experience of watching the film. * **Discuss at least one of the following: camera angles, editing choices, or key imagery.**

**VI. Sound (Music)**You may wish to comment on sound effects by commenting on how they affect particular scenes or stimulate an **emotional response** from the viewer. In films that use music, you should comment on the song choices, how the songs affect the viewer, and how they contribute to the film more generally. Allow yourself to be guided by your emotional reactions and feel confident to express these feelings. * **Identify at least one type of music from the soundtrack. When was it played and for what effect? What instruments are highlighted? What kind of tone did the music help create?**
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **PARAGRAPH 4:****VII. Conclusion:**The conclusion should balance the whole review by returning to the broad comments or issues presented in the lead or introduction.* **Conclude your review with a recommendation: Why should teens view this film? (Remember: Relate back to the lead in some way…)**
 |