

IB Film 1 – Film Journal

The Film Journal is a written record of your process of viewing each film. Keeping a film journal will allow you to develop your analytical skills and prepare you for the Textual Analysis and Comparative Study assessments later in the year.

Your Film Journal MUST include: A careful and thorough analysis that combines commentary on both the **technical aspects** of filmmaking and the **cultural/social issues** brought up in the film. To do this, consider:

- Using specific scene(s) as examples to illustrate your analysis
- Using the technical language of film (camera angles, shots, sound, editing, etc.) and pointing to specific aspects or details of the scene that are meaningful. Don't just list the elements – explain how and why these elements are important. Try to focus on the elements that we're studying in the book that week. Your journal is one way of showing me that you're understanding the concepts we're learning.
- Focusing on approximately **three different aspects of the film** (as detailed in "[Approaches to Film Analysis and Critique](#)" on the course website).

What your Film Journal should **NOT** include:

- A plot summary (don't tell us what happens in the film – at all.)
- A "thumbs up" or "thumbs down" review (don't tell us whether or not you liked the film – at all) – whether or not you liked it is irrelevant to this analysis
- A biography of the director or actors
- A synopsis of what the director/actors say in the "Director's Cut" of the film
- The use of outside research (everything in your journal should be your own analysis, not analysis you've read from research sources).

Film Journal Requirements:

- Each film journal entry should be between one and three pages in length.
- Each film journal entry should begin with a heading/title that includes the name of the film and the name of the director, for easy reference.
- Please keep the film journal entries in the order the films were assigned.

If you have any questions about what you need to do, ask early and often!