# **Ashford 6: - Week 5 - Final Film Critique**

## **Final Film Critique**

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Please click [here](http://vizedhtmlcontent.next.ecollege.com/pub/content/82155928-2928-4496-8fca-19d54565787a/ENG225_WEEK_05.pdf) to view the Week Five Assignment Video transcript.

Throughout this course, you have been writing essays and participating in discussion forums that analyze various elements of film such as theme, cinematic techniques, and genre. It is now time to combine those elements into a comprehensive analysis of one movie.

You will be completing this assignment in two stages. For the first stage (1500 to 1800 words), you will analyze an entire movie. In the second stage (300 to 600 words), you will reflect on how you analyzed the movie as well as how your ability to analyze film in general has evolved.

You are encouraged to incorporate writing from your Week Two and Week Three assignments if (a) you have reflected on the instructor’s feedback, (b) you have revised the relevant parts of the essays accordingly, and (c) the essays discuss the same film that you discuss here.

**Stage 1: Analysis**

For this stage, you will be analyzing a movie selected from the [AFI's 10 Top 10](http://www.afi.com/10top10/) list. The film you choose can be one that you have previously analyzed in this course. While you are allowed to choose a film that does not come from the AFI lists, you are strongly encouraged to email your professor to receive approval before doing so.

The analysis portion of your paper should be 1500 to 1800 words in length. You should analyze the film through the lens of one of the broad theories you have learned about in class (auteur theory, genre theory, formalist theory). Your analysis must address four main areas (contextual information, story/plot, aesthetic choices, and social/personal impact) and how these areas work together to develop the theme of the movie. As you construct your analysis, assume that your reader is not familiar with this film. Use your analysis to explain to your reader why they should watch this film.

In addition to the film you are analyzing, you must use three scholarly sources to support your arguments. Refer to the [ENG225 Research Guide](http://outboundsso.next.ecollege.com/default/launchWithoutCache.ed?ssoType=AULibraryEzP&url=http%253A//ashfordonline.libguides.com/ENG225) in the Ashford University Library for guidance and to locate your sources. Cite your sources (including the feature-length film) within the text of your paper and on the reference page. Cite your sources according to APA style as outlined in the [Ashford Writing Center](https://awc.ashford.edu/index.html).

Your analysis must address the following components (noted in bold below):

* **Contextual Information** – In this area, you will provide some of the basic identifying information of the film. This includes:
  + Title
  + Director, cinematographer, major actors/actresses. Be sure to describe their roles in the overall design process.
  + Year of release
  + Type of film (blockbuster, indie, documentary, etc.)
  + Genre
* **Story/Plot** – In this area, you should offer a brief summary of the film, and then show how it was deployed in the narrative structure of the film. Explain the difference between the film’s story and its plot. This area can be addressed as a separate paragraph, or can be threaded throughout your analysis of the film.
* **Aesthetic Choices** – In this area, you will assess the efficacy of specific techniques and design elements employed in the film as they apply to the overarching narrative and theme of the film. These elements include:
  + Mise en scène (e.g., lighting, sound, composition of frame, costuming, etc.)
  + Editing (e.g., cuts and transitions, shots used, angles, etc.)
  + Technology (i.e., analyze the impact of any notable technological effects: film stock, targeted release venue, special effects, etc.)
* **Social/Personal Impact** – In this area, you will critically address the following questions:
  + What impact did this film have on society (i.e., politically or culturally, positive or negative)? The impact can be as major as inspiring political or social changes or as minor as inspiring the production of toys or lunchboxes.
  + How did society affect this film (i.e., what currents in society led to the creation of the film)?
  + If you are unable to find any information about the social impact of the film, explain the personal impact it has had on you.

Note: Not every bullet point under the four listed components will necessarily apply to your movie. However, you will still need to discuss each of the four main components thoroughly, which means that you may need to explain a concept even if it can’t be directly applied to your movie.

Your paper should be organized around a thesis statement that clarifies what you will attempt to accomplish in your paper, and how you will proceed. Additionally, you must conclude with a restatement of the thesis and a conclusion paragraph. Review the [Final Film Critique sample](http://vizedhtmlcontent.next.ecollege.com/pub/content/89778065-9b81-4823-8714-3d30c4ba3d83/AU_ENG225_file_W5FinalFilmCritiqueSample.pdf), which provides an example of a well-developed analysis as well as insight on composition.

**Stage 2: Reflection**

After completing your movie analysis, you will reflect on the analysis process and how you have learned to more thoroughly analyze film as well as how rigorous study of film enhances your development as a student and thinker. In this 300- to 600-word reflection, review your initial post from the “Post Your Introduction” discussion in Week One, and consider how your ability to analyze movies has changed or grown. Append your reflection to the analysis portion of your paper and submit as one document. Your reflection should be personal and exploratory in nature.

Address the following questions in your reflection:

* What can be gained through analyzing film?
* How has this changed the way you view movies?
* How are you able to use film theory and criticism to find and interpret meaning in movies?
* In what ways has this course changed your understanding of how movies are related to society?
* What skills have you developed during this course, and how might those skills be applied to your major, profession, and/or life?

The Final Film Critique

* Must be one document that is 1800 to 2400 words in length, comprised of a 1500- to 1800-word film analysis and a 300- to 600-word reflection.
* Must include a separate title and reference page, and be formatted according to APA style as outlined in [Ashford Writing Center](https://awc.ashford.edu/index.html).
* Must include a title page with the following:
  + Title of paper
  + Student’s name
  + Course name and number
  + Instructor’s name
  + Date submitted
* Must begin with an introductory paragraph that has a succinct thesis statement.
* Must address the topic of the paper with critical thought.
* Must end with a conclusion that reaffirms your thesis.
* Must use at least three scholarly sources (reviews, articles, or book chapters) other than the textbook to support your points. Refer to the [ENG225 Research Guide](http://outboundsso.next.ecollege.com/default/launchWithoutCache.ed?ssoType=AULibraryEzP&url=http%253A//ashfordonline.libguides.com/ENG225) for guidance.
* Must document all sources in APA style, as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center.
* Must include a separate reference page that is formatted according to APA style as outlined in the Ashford Writing Center.

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 It is advised that you check your document for originality (avoiding unintentional plagiarism) by using the Turnitin program. Please view the video [*Using TurnItIn Through Waypoint*](http://ashford.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Using%2BTurnItIn%2BThrough%2BWaypoint/0_raki21gh/19511472) for guidance on using the Turnitin program.

 Please view the video [*Submitting an Assignment Through Waypoint*](http://ashford.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Submitting%2Ban%2BAssignment%2BIn%2BWaypoint/0_ayaxxa8o/19511472) for a step-by-step guide on uploading your assignment.

 Please view the video [*Accessing Feedback in the Gradebook*](http://ashford.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/Accessing%2BFeedback%2Bin%2Bthe%2BGradebook/1_oaz57vbn/19511472) for guidance on how to review your instructor’s feedback when the post is graded.

Carefully review the [Grading Rubric](http://ashford.waypointoutcomes.com/assessment/4551/preview) for the criteria that will be used to evaluate your assignment.