

American Literature – Mrs. Jeanneret
Research Paper Timeline

Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014: ____/5 points – Movie Choices

Students should bring a list of three movies they would prefer to research from the AFI 100 Best Films list provided to them. Students should note their first, second, and third choice. **Please note, students in the same section will not be allowed to research the same film. Therefore, not every student will receive their first choice if multiple students listed the same film.*

Monday, February 24, 2014:

Mrs. Jeanneret will reveal the film assigned to each student. Students ought to watch their film prior to beginning research on the film.

Tuesday, February 25, 2014:

Students researching a rated R film need to turn in their parent permission form today.

Wednesday, March 5, 2014: ____/ 25 points (5 Points per Source)

All students must bring a typed out works cited page with at least five resources gathered so far that pertain to their topic. Students are allowed to use www.citationmachine.net to help them format the MLA citation; however, students should still verify the information is documented correctly rather than completely trusting the website. Mrs. Jeanneret will provide a detailed example and explanation of a correctly formatted works cited page. Students MAY NOT cite any information from the following online sources: personal blogs, Wikipedia, or any anonymously written articles that are not from a reliable source. See the research handout for good sources.

Tuesday, March 11, 2014: ____/25 pts (1 pt per notecard)—Research notecards

All students must bring 25 notecards to document the research process. Notecards must be in the appropriate format.

Monday, March 17, 2014: ____/ 10 Points – Introductory Paragraph

All students are required to bring a typed introductory paragraph with a three-point thesis written in 12 point Times New Roman font and double-spaced. Remember, you are not going to merrily discuss the actors' performances or cinematography, but you are going to make an argument of why or why not the film should appear on the AFI Top 100 Films list of all time. Therefore, verify the thesis will not be an extension of the plot of the movie.

Monday, March 31, 2014: ____/20 points - Outline

All students are required to bring a typed outline that mimics a five-paragraph essay with a rebuttal and concluding paragraph. Mrs. Jeanneret will provide a template for students to follow. One piece of researched information must appear in each body paragraph. In total, there should be at least five sources cited in the outline. The outline should be in correct outline format, typed and double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font. All citations should be in complete sentences; however, the remainder of the outline does NOT need to be written in complete sentences but in recognizable phrases.

Monday, April 7, 2014: ____/10 points-First Body Paragraph

All students are required to bring a typed body paragraph with at least one piece of cited information, whether a direct quote or a paraphrase.

Tuesday, April 22, 2014: ____/ 30 points (5 points per paragraph) – Completed Rough Draft

All students are required to bring a typed rough draft of the research paper. The research paper must have an introduction, three body paragraphs, a rebuttal paragraph, and a conclusion. This should be written in complete sentences, double-spaced, and in 12 point Times New Roman font. The essay should have proper topic sentences, transitions, and concluding sentences. All three-body paragraphs should have at least one quoted piece of research properly cited in correct MLA format; however, the paper must have at least five citations inside. We will complete a peer review on this day in class.

Friday, April 25, 2014: ____/ 100 points – Final Essay (See attached Rubric for grading information)

All students are required to turn in the final draft of the research paper. The final draft should have a proper research cover and a works cited page at the end of the paper. All citations within the research paper should be properly cited in MLA format. The final draft should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font and double-spaced with 1-inch margins on all sides. The final draft must be submitted to Turnitin.com prior to coming to class on March 12.

The American Film Institute Research Paper
American Literature
Mrs. Jeanneret

Explanation of Research Paper:

In 1998, the American Film Institute selected the 100 best American movies of all time, and then updated the top 100 list in 2007. Your task is to choose one of these films and analyze written material from reputable critics to determine the criteria of why it belongs on the list of the best 100 movies. You will build your case for including the movie in the top 100 list, but you will also note dissenting viewpoints (those that may not agree with you) in a rebuttal paragraph.

How we will perform research:

Each student is required to have at least **five different sources** cited in their research paper. Students are **not** allowed to use blogs or Wikipedia as research. Students are not merely arguing the film has good actors or settings but are arguing a larger point. A thesis and subsequent body paragraphs must be researched and discussed based off of the following questions. Questions you might consider researching include:

- How does the syntax and dialect of the film properly relate to its time period?
- What effect does the cinematography have on the overall appeal of the film?
- What cultural phenomenon did the film dictate?
- What culture did the film educate its viewers about, and what did viewers learn about that culture?
- How did the film set the standard for animated fairy tales? (Only relative to animated films.)
- How are the aesthetic and economic portrayals of the time period evident in the film, and are they incorrect or correct?
- How did cinema audiences and gender influence the success of the film?
- How did technological developments influence the success of the film?
- How did digital imaging influence the reality of the film?
- How did advertising affect the overall success of the film?
- How was history portrayed accurately or inaccurately?
- As you research your film, focus on the following features of the film:
 - **Acting** – how well did the actors/actresses embrace their roles and convince the audience of whom they meant to portray?
 - **Cinematography** – how did the lighting and camera choices enhance the film experience?
 - **Set design** – how does the scenery and setting enhance the film?
 - **Special Effects** – how does technology enhance the effect of the film?
 - **Inspiration (the “intangible”)** – what feeling does this film leave its audience with?
 - **Music** – how did the music/soundtrack complement and enhance the film?
 - **Costume** – how did the actors’ wardrobes enhance the film experience?
 - **Timeliness** – how is this film exemplary of the time period during which it was produced?
 - **Legacy** – how has this film changed the way we create and view films?

Sources you should use for research (You will retrieve articles with authors off these websites. You will not merely state these websites in your works cited page):

www.dvdjournal.com

www.dvdverdict.com

www.filmsite.org

www.mrqe.com

www.rottentomatoes.com

Helpful library sources include:

The Great Movies Roger Ebert

History of the American Cinema (10 volumes)

New York Times Film Reviews (published yearly)

You can also search the 791.43-45 section of a library for more materials.

The movie itself!

Student Name: _____

- 8—Clearly a knowledgeable, practiced, skilled pattern
6—Evidence of a developing pattern
4—Superficial, random, limited consistencies
2—Unacceptable skill application

I. Use of Sources

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	8	6	4	2
Researched information appropriately documented in MLA Citations using www.citationmachine.net or the MLA 2010 Style Guide as a reference				
One researched piece of information appears in each body paragraph, totaling a number of five citations				
Student demonstrates all two of the following throughout the essay: paraphrasing and direct quotations				
Information presented logically connects to the three point thesis				
Sources on the Works Cited Page accurately match sources cited within the text				

_____/40

II. Content/Organization

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	8	6	4	2
Introduction engaging and clearly defines the three point thesis				
Content connecting to thesis remains clarifying, exploring, explaining, detailed, developing, and analyzing				
Transitions are used effectively throughout the essay				
Mixture of personal voice in third person interwoven with research				
Conclusion thoughtful, engaging, and clear; Restates thesis				

_____/40

III. Mechanics/Usage/Spelling/Format

Skill application demonstrates use which represents →	5	4	3	2
Cover Page and Pagination (top right following last name)				
Paper submitted to Turnitin.com PRIOR to class on Friday, April 25, 2014. Papers not submitted are graded according to late policy.		N/A	N/A	
12 point Times New Roman font, double-spaced and appropriate 1" margins				
Spelling/3 rd Person/Present Tense/Usage/Grammar (comma, semi-colon, apostrophe, no contractions)				

_____/20

Total Score: ____/100

Total Percentage: _____