



Unit Activities



Movie Review – Part 1

The following questions come from *Focus: The Art and Soul of Cinema* (Damaris, 2007). They are intended to help you organize your thinking as you watch the selected movie and will also assist you in leading a group discussion. Write (or type) your answers on another sheet of paper.

1. Initial Response

- 1-A. What movie did you watch? In what year was it released?
- 1-B. What will you remember the most about the movie?
- 1-C. Would you watch the movie again? Why or why not?
- 1-D. Would a second viewing be different? What might you focus on when watching the movie again?
- 1-E. How might different people view this movie (gender, age, race)?

2. Popular Culture

- 2-A. How popular is this movie? How did it do at the box office?
- 2-B. What kind of reviews did this movie receive? Why do you think it got these reviews?
- 2-C. How influential is this movie? Did it “inspire” or cause any trends in society?
- 2-D. What aspect of history did this movie attempt to address?
- 2-E. How historically accurate was this movie? Was it applauded or criticized for the manner in which the material was presented?

3. Quality

- 3-A. What did you think of the cast? Were they believable?
- 3-B. Which actor turned in the best performance in the movie?
- 3-C. What emotional effect did the soundtrack create?
- 3-D. Did you feel like you were “in” the time period presented? Explain why that was (or wasn’t) the case.
- 3-E. Did the movie’s rating (PG, PG-13, R) impact the way in which the material was presented?

MORE QUESTIONS ON BACK





Unit Activities



Movie Review – Part 2

4. Narrative

- 4-A. What was the plot? Provide a summary (max of 10 sentences).
- 4-B. Does the movie feature a single protagonist or multiple protagonists? Did they share the same goal(s)?
- 4-C. What problem(s) was/were faced by the protagonist?
- 4-D. Was the end of the movie closed or open to a sequel? Was/were the key problem(s) solved? Why or why not?
- 4-E. Historically speaking, did the movie add in characters or include more action/drama than what really happened? If so, provide an example of history being "Hollywood-ed" in this movie.

5. Themes

- 5-A. What was/were the key theme(s)? (Ex: morality)
- 5-B. How did the theme(s) develop and become clear?
- 5-C. How was/were the theme(s) explored and emphasized?
- 5-D. How do other movies handle similar themes? In other words, is this movie's theme one that's used in a lot of other movies?
- 5-E. Were there religious themes or connections? How is faith treated (if at all) in this movie?

6. Verdict

- 6-A. How many "stars" (out of 5) would you award this movie? Why?
- 6-B. Use two words to describe this movie.
- 6-C. What quote will you remember from this movie? Who said it? What made it stand out to you?
- 6-D. What scene was your favorite in the movie? Why?
- 6-E. Would you recommend this movie to anyone? Why or why not?

