

Name _____ Period _____

Film Study Worksheet -- For a Work of Historical Fiction/Nonfiction

Read the questions before you watch the movie so that you will know what to look for. At breaks during the showing or when the film is over, you will have an opportunity to make short notes in the spaces provided. If you make notes while the movie is playing, make sure that your note taking doesn't interfere with carefully watching the film. You do not need to make any notes on the worksheet, but when the movie is completed, you will be required to fully respond to the questions.

Complete the assignment by answering each question. Answers need to be complete and comprehensive, demonstrating that you paid attention and thought about what was shown on the screen.

Questions 6 and 10 ask about your personal experience, and you may respond in the first person. All other responses should be in the third person. For Questions 7 - 10, research the historical event and provide citations to the authorities on which you rely for any facts or conclusions cited in your responses.

Film _____

1. Write a brief summary of the main plot, describing the event or events that are the focus of the film, stating where and when they take place.

Notes: _____

2. Name and describe the protagonist and the antagonist in this story.

Notes: _____

3. In the story told by the film, what is the main conflict and how is it resolved?

Notes: _____

4. Historical fiction employs the elements of literature and the devices of fiction. Identify and describe two literary elements or devices that are evident in the movie other than conflict, antagonist, protagonist, and imagery. Other literary elements or devices may include: prologue, expository phase, voice, symbol, foreshadowing, flashback, irony, foil, opposition, archetype, motif, characterization, climax, and denouement. For each literary device that you identify, describe the role that it plays in presenting the story told by the film.

Notes: #1 _____
#2 _____

5. Music and lighting are part of the way that the moviemakers communicate their message. Go deeper than that. Give two specific examples of how other elements of the cinematic art, such as shot framing, camera angles, camera movement, color, editing choice, or length of take were used by the filmmakers to get their point across.

Notes: #1 _____

#2 _____

6. Describe two images or scenes from the film that stand out in your mind. Discuss why they impressed you and how they relate to themes explored in the story.

Notes: #1 _____

#2 _____

7. Describe two events or portrayals in the film that, on the whole, accurately reflect what actually happened and two that do not. For any historical inaccuracies, describe what really happened.

Notes: _____

8. Pick one of the following factors that play an important role in the film. Chose among political, economic, religious, social, and ideological. How does the film reflect the factor you identified? Be specific.

Notes: _____

9. Describe a lesson from this film that viewers can apply to their own lives: (1) in deciding what position to take on an issue of public concern or (2) in their relations with family and friends. Detail the events that relate to this lesson.

Notes: _____

10. It could be said that "History is what the present chooses to remember about the past." Given the fact that the audience will take away from the movie an impression of the historical events or figures portrayed in the story, does the film improve the viewer's understanding of historical events? Justify your conclusion.

Notes: _____