

Directions for Extra Credit Film, Performance, or Exhibition Review

To earn extra credit, a student may elect to see a current film in theatrical release, a live play, or other exhibition in a museum or art gallery that has a relation to the course you are taking and write a review of your experience. The maximum number of points will be set in advance (typically, about the amount of a quiz grade). Reviews must be submitted by the last day of the grading period to be considered for that grading period. Written reviews are only accepted for films, performances, or exhibits that one personally visits in a theater, museum, or gallery. I will not accept reviews for films or performances that are viewed at home or have been made available electronically, on cable, satellite, DVD, VHS, or pay-per-view.

Films, performances, or exhibits that are eligible for extra credit must be accepted by the instructor in advance. The student is responsible for transportation, costs, permission from parent (e.g., if the film is R-rated and the student is under 17). Usually, I tell the students about upcoming films or exhibits that might be appropriate and of interest; these must have some connection or relevance to the subject matter in the course.

To receive credit, the student must attach a film ticket stub, gallery or museum brochure, or submit a picture of with the student at the venue. The final paper shall be:

- **At least** 500 words
- Typed or computer-generated
- No more than 1" margins
- 12 point Times or Arial font
- Spelling and grammar always count!

The paper should be in the form of a review. This is a paper in which you give an opinion about the event. DO NOT take up the entire paper merely retelling the action of the film or what is in a particular exhibit. I will likely have seen the movie or been to the exhibit—I don't need to know what it was about. I'm more interested in your evaluation of the event.

Typically, a review begins with a **brief** synopsis (summary) of the main action of the film or an explanation of what is in the exhibit. This should be no more than a paragraph or two. The bulk of the film review discusses **YOUR OPINION ABOUT:**

- The major themes of the film, performance, or exhibit;
- How accurate is it? (check your textbook or other resource for more information)
- Is it more history, Hollywood, or propaganda? (check your textbook or other resource for more information)
- For a film, evaluate the acting, direction, photography, sets, sound, music, etc.
- For an exhibit, evaluate the selections, placement, narration, signage, etc.
- Did you like what you saw? Would you recommend it to friends, family, classes, etc.?

It's OK to write that you didn't like it. You won't receive a poor grade simply if you disagree with my opinion. What will get you little or no credit is if you are unable to justify your views—either positive or negative. Don't just write "It was the best movie I ever saw" or "The exhibit was terrible" without explaining exactly what brings you to that opinion. Write the review as if you were submitting it to an adult audience—readers of *The Sacramento Bee*, for instance.