

Essay 1: Evaluation

Writing a Movie Review (*The Grizzlies*)

TSGW, Ch 8

Evaluation

- Evaluation involves making judgments
- We make casual evaluations every day, but writing an evaluation requires us to do more than simply make a snap judgment or offer a casual opinion
- When writing an evaluation, we need to articulate a clear, specific judgment **and** give clear, specific reasons to support the judgment

Evaluation

- When evaluating, writers often discuss the category the subject belongs to, e.g., an evaluation of *The Grizzlies* would consider it an example of sports film (drama). (What are the conventional features of sports films? Other sports films that are similar, different?)
- Evaluations depend upon establishing **criteria**—standards appropriate for evaluating a subject (e. g, what standards does a restaurant reviewer consider when reviewing a restaurant? How a reviewer would rank these in terms of importance may vary.).

Evaluation: Primary Purposes

- To make a judgment (your thesis) about a movie—Is it good? Bad? Fair? A judgment should also indicate *why*: *The Grizzlies* is a/an _____ movie because _____. (This is a general template for a draft judgment. For additional templates, see TSGW, Ch 8, p 289, 316)
- To give clear, specific reasons and specific evidence (examples) to support the judgment. (See TSGW, Ch 8, p 317.)
- To entertain readers—movie reviews should be creative and engaging. Formulaic reviews are easy to write but don't say much

Evaluation: Secondary Purposes

- To inform—give readers information about the plot, director, actors, genre, production, etc
- To persuade—you want readers to accept your judgment and reasons, although you know not everyone will

Finally, the best movie reviews do not focus on plot summary. (What a movie is about vs what does it mean.) They make readers think about the movie they have seen and help them understand the movie beyond their own impressions and ideas.

Evaluation: Audience

On the course website (Course Notes), I have posted an audience sheet for the movie review. You will draft this along with your outline and essay and turn it in with your essay.

You will imagine your movie review will be published in print newspaper. (Medium—how will this determine the length of your paragraphs?)

Evaluation: Medium, Occasion, Genre, Context

- Medium: **Draft**: 3 pages, double spaced for draft. (12pt, TNR, one-inch margins. Paragraphing for a print newspaper. For the **final version** you will turn in, you will use double-column formatting with a heading, TNR, 10-pt font, single spaced. (To be discussed in class—see Course Notes.)
- Genre—evaluation. Conventions for evaluation essay—movie review?
- Occasion: Time sensitive. Relevant while the movie is running, not so much afterwards
- Context: Sport as a microcosm of life. Role of sports in our society? Sports movies as a genre? Sports during a pandemic?

Evaluation: Writing Considerations

- What kind of thesis (judgment) does an evaluation essay have? Where does it go? See TSGW, Ch 13, 8
- How should you organize your essay? Your reasons/examples within the essay/review? See sample essays in TSGW, Ch 8
- How much plot summary should you include? (Rhetorical situation: Use audience assumptions/medium—page limit). Information about actors, director? Compare to other (sports) movies?
- Quotations or dialogue from the movie? How do you get these?
- Does your review connect to larger discussions about art and culture? (Rhetorical situation—context) Why do we like/need movies? Movies as art (along with literature, creative arts, comics etc.)? What about the connection to sports? (Sports as a microcosm of life?) Why are sports movies about more than sports?