

# FMJ RESPONSES!

## BRAINSTORM!

spew out all of the ideas you have onto paper....

(use *English jargon* – it always impresses those markers!)

Remember – you should be able to not only **state** your idea, but **explain** it **AND** give **details** from the text (either quotes of specific description)....

(*STUDY* of notes is what does this – by the way)



## INTRODUCTION!

Restate your question, including the "title", key information and author/director of your text...

Briefly outline your major points  
(show that you know your stuff!)

Celebrated director Stanley Kubrick's critically acclaimed examination of the American involvement in the Vietnam War, "Full Metal Jacket" uses a variety of production techniques such as music, lighting, dialogue and costuming to create a strong first impression of purpose which is important to the text as a whole. Kubrick immediately sets about giving a viewer a clear sense of the harsh isolation that a recruit in the U.S. Marines experiences as they are stripped of their personalities.

First sentence is a **TOPIC SENTENCE**. It tells you what the paragraph is on about...

Other sentences **EXPLAIN** what your topic sentence was on about...  
(specific **EXAMPLES** are used where possible)

Kubrick wastes no time in portraying the idea that in order to become a soldier, or in this film's case, a Marine, an individual firstly has to lose their own sense of individuality. The opening shot of "Full Metal Jacket" shows a collection of raw recruits staring into space as their heads are shaved. All trainees are dressed in identical uniform and within minutes of the film's start, they lose one of their distinctive physical features that sets them apart from their peers, their hair, rendering them homogenous straight away and indicating to the viewer that individuality and personality are not important in this army.

The opening soundtrack that accompanies the barber scene is also used to help the viewer to gain some context. "Goodbye My Sweetheart, Hello Vietnam" perfectly sums up the situation in the opening of this film. Recruits are farewelling their families and loved ones, but also their old selves as they prepare to become 'killers' and fight in Vietnam. The slow, country drawl of this song is distinctly American and matches the stoical faces of the recruits.

Another straightforward point... no fancy stuff, just a standard explanation... **EASY!**  
(Stoical means unfeeling)

Same same...

Kubrick's use of lighting also adds to the purpose of the opening of this film. Throughout the opening sequence the setting is illuminated by natural lighting. Strip lights are apparent on the ceiling, but not switched on. This natural light, set against white walls is cold and helps to create a sterile and inhospitable environment – seemingly perfect for stripping the recruits of their personalities, their humanity.

Finally, Kubrick employs dialogue effectively to isolate and de-personalise his recruits. The ironically named Gunnery Sergeant Hartman devotes his entire time on screen to a long and initially shocking monologue which he unleashes on his recruits. Hartman hurls a constant barrage of abuse at his charges at maximum volume; his questions are answered in shouts as well, there is no dialogue spoken at all, only shouted. For a viewer such shouting soon becomes tiresome and monotonous, but this is the point. For recruits this serves to once again sap them of their personalities and humanity – normal people do not shout constantly, but then the Marines are not normal, as Kubrick illustrates well as the film unfolds.

**441 words!**