

INITIAL RESPONSE – FILM REVIEW

This lesson, your students, having initially watched 'Full Metal Jacket' will write a film review outlining what goes on in the film and also what they personally thought of it..

Either use the following structure on an OHP to guide the students, or give each student a photocopy. This may be a better idea if you wish this to be finished for homework...



Structure of a Film Review in a Nutshell!!

- 1. Title** – catchy, can indicate if review will be positive or negative, you can play with words to make it funny or different
- 2. Paragraph 1 – Opening paragraph** – can start to summarise film and give early suggestions about your general view of it (positive/negative)
- 3. Paragraph 2** – Start or continue summary of film, don't give details about the ending or else no one will go and see the film!!
- 4. Paragraph 3 and 4** – positive things you thought about the film, what did you like? Why? Use descriptive words, think about the story, setting, effects used, music used
- 5. Paragraph 5 and 6** – negative things you thought about the film, what didn't you like? Why? Comment on the same type of things that you mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4
- 6. Paragraph 7 and 8** – Characterisation – talk about the characters, did you like them? Did the actors play them well? What was it about their portrayal that you liked or didn't like? Other impressions of the characters, will certain audience members be able to relate to certain characters? How? Will certain audience members not like certain characters? Why not?
- 7. Paragraph 9** – Final comments – general comments that summarize your view of the film, you may want to say something inspiring to get the reader to want to go out and see the film or you might say something that would want them not to go and see it! After the paragraph you would give it a star rating out of 5 to indicate your rating for it.

Common words and phrases used in film reviews that you might want to use in your own reviews;

spectacular visual effects, excessive violence, breathtaking, evocative, mood, atmosphere, poorly, unsuccessful, detail, scenery, irresistible, perfect, moments, plot, this movie has been compared to ____ because, wonderful, hilarious, momentum, unexpected plot twists, unbelievable, phenomenal, hype, suspense, disappointing, confusion/confused, fake, imitation, genre, unoriginal, typical, thrilled, was a very moving portrayal, quality of the film, I was impressed by, credible, cliché, a mixture of, classic, captivating