

How to Write a Film Analysis Essay



Activity: Film Essay Analysis, Blade Runner

Instructions

Read the student essay below. Answer the questions that follow.

Blade Runner: A humanistic vision of the future.

The film Blade Runner is a science-fiction by director Ridley Scott starring actors such as Harrison Ford , Sean Young and Rutger Hauer. Although having suffered a mitigated response by the critics upon its release, the film has, over time, acquired a cult status, as Roger Ebert expresses in his 2007 critic of the final cut version released the same year: "I have referred to replicants without ever establishing what a replicant is. It is a tribute to the influence and reach of 'Blade Runner' that 25 years after its release virtually everyone reading this knows about replicants. Reviews of 'The Wizard of Oz' never define Munchkins, do they?" (2) This text aims to show how much of a revolution Blade Runner was, both in its technical prowesses and its cultural influence in genre cinema.

Firstly, the visual effects of Blade Runner are spectaculary. Even critics who didn't like the film at the time admitted that the visual part was a success. Here is what Roger Ebert had to say about the film's aesthetic: "The visual environments he creates for this film are wonderful to behold, and there's a sense of detail, too; we don't just get the skyways and the monolithic skyscrapers and the sky-taxis, we also get notions about how restaurants, clothes and home furnishing will look in 2020 (not too different). 'Blade Runner' is worth attending just to witness this artistry." (3) The thing is, as Ebert points out, that, as magnificent as the special effects of

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the film were, they weren't just there for the technicality of it; they served a story and immersed the viewer in a completely new world: the future. In short, from a visual standpoint, Blade Runner was really ahead of its time.

Secondly, Ridley Scott's movie revolutionized genre cinema. The main theme of the film was humanity, with the consequential question "What makes humans 'human'?". This whole questioning of humanity came from the film's story; The basic principles of the film were that the principal character was a sort of bounty hunter chasing replicants, a kind of androids so advanced they could be confused with humans, which were illegal on earth. Those robots were created by Tyrell corp., a company whose motto was "More human than human" (1) , to colonise other planets. Some of the androids were implemented fake memories, rendering them unaware of their "un-humanity", but also making them debatably "human". This ambiguity between machines who think and humans lead to philosophical reflexions about humanity, memories and mortality in an era where science-fiction, fantasy and horror movies were still thought of as entertainment more than art. In this, Blade Runner changed the way people looked at science-fiction.

In conclusion, Blade Runner was ahead of its time in the visuals it offered and the way it treated science-fiction as a form of art. The question now is: Will its sequel, directed by Quebecois director Denis Villeneuve, bring as much of a revolution as its predecessor?

Works cited: Citations

(1)- Blade Runner. Dir. Ridley Scott, Per. Harrison Ford, Rutger Hauer. The Ladd Company. 1982. Film-streaming. [<http://www.hds.to/films/blade-runner-1982-streaming.php?r=TKRJeA>] Web. 29 September 2017.

(2)- EBERT, Roger. "Blade Runner : The Final Cut Movie". [<http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/great-movie-blade-runner-the-final-cut-1982>] Web. 3 October 2017.

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(3)- EBERT, Roger. "Blade Runner". [http://www.rogerebert.com/reviews/blade-runner-1982-1] Web. 3 october 2017.

3.1 What is the thesis statement in the first paragraph?

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3.2 How does the first sentence in the second paragraph reinforce the thesis?

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3.3 How does the first sentence in the third paragraph reinforce the thesis?

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3.4 How does the conclusion restate the thesis?

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3.5 Correct the following punctuation and spelling errors?

Blade Runner	
The Wizard of Oz	
prowesses	
spectaculary	

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home furnishing	
questioning	
fantasy an horror	
debatably "human".	

3.6 Correct the "Works Cited" entries.

(1)- Blade Runner.	
(2)- EBERT, Roger.	
(3)- EBERT, Roger.	

3.7 Correct the three in-text citations.

(2) first paragraph	
(3) second paragraph	
(1) third paragraph	

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Activity: Questions about the Film

Instructions: Comment on one or two literary or audio-visual elements for the film you have chosen. Write down 8-10 points in connection with the literary and film elements you studied. These elements include plot, characters, point of view, setting, style/dialogue, theme, and audio-visual.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

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Activity: Questions about the Novel

Read the first 30 pages or first chapter of the novel. See [Amazon Books](#) or [Google Play Books](#)

Answer these questions briefly. Post your answers in your blog.

1 Who are the characters?	
2 What are some of their qualities and characteristics?	
3 Where and when does the story take place? Is it unique or special?	
4 What is the point of view? How credible is the narrator?	
5 How does the story begin? How does the author catch your interest?	
6 Is there any conflict developing?	

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7 From what you read, what is your favourite quote?	
8 Which character do you relate to most?	
9 Can you predict any themes the story may have?	
10 What is the significance of the title of the book?	

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Activity: Take Notes

Film review 1

Instructions

Go to the IMDB or some other reputable film site. Find two expert film reviews on the film you watched. Take notes from each review using the chart below.

Article title: _____

Description	
Website name	
Publisher	
URL	
Author/s	

Keyword/questions	Notes
1	
2	
3	

Summary	
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Film review 2

Article title:

Description	
Website name	
Publisher	
URL	
Author/s	

Keyword/questions	Notes
1	
2	
3	

Summary	
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Suggested answers: Analysis *Blade Runner*

3.1 Thesis appears in the last sentence of the first paragraph:

“This text aims to show how much of a revolution *Blade Runner* was, both in its technical prowesses [sic] and its cultural influence in genre cinema.”

3.2

The initial sentence in the second paragraph uses “spectacular visual effects” to refer back to the film’s “technical prowess.” each of the next two paragraphs develop the two points regarding its technical prowess () and its cultural influence (revolutionized genre cinema).

3.3 The initial sentence in the third paragraph uses “revolutionized genre cinema” to refer back to the film’s “cultural influence.”

3.4 The conclusion revisits the two main points in the thesis using other words: “ahead of its time in the visuals it offered” and “science-fiction as a form of art.”

3.5 Correct the following punctuation and spelling errors?

Error	Correction
Blade Runner, The Wizard of Oz	<i>Blade Runner, The Wizard of Oz</i>
prowesses	prowess
spectaculary	spectacular
home furnishing	home furnishings
questionning	questioning

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fantasy an horror	fantasy and horror
debatably "human".	debatably "human."

3.6 Correct the "Works Cited."

(1)- Blade Runner.	Scott, Ridley, director. Blade Runner. The Ladd Company, 29 Sept. 2017, www.hds.to/films/blade-runner-1982-streaming.php?r=TkRJeA
(2)- EBERT, Roger.	Ebert, Roger. "Blade Runner : The Final Cut Movie." rogerebert.com , 3 Oct. 2017, www.rogerebert.com/reviews/great-movie-blade-runner-the-final-cut-1982 .
(3)- EBERT, Roger.	Ebert, Roger. "Blade Runner." rogerebert.com , 3 Oct. 2017, www.rogerebert.com/reviews/blade-runner-1982-1 .

3.7 Correct the three in-text citations.

(2) first paragraph	(Ebert, <i>Blade Runner</i> : The Final Cut)
(3) second paragraph	(Ebert, <i>Blade Runner</i>)
(1) third paragraph	(Scott)

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Student Example

Article title: Into the Wild

Description: Peter Bradshaw reviews the movie "Into the Wild", putting emphasis in his review on a couple of different aspects, such as performance, story, characters and the main theme, nature.

Website name: The guardian

Publisher: The guardian

URL: <https://www.theguardian.com/film/2007/nov/09/seanpenn.drama>

Author/s: Peter Bradshaw

Keyword/questions:

1. Characters: Bradshaw describes the characters using multiple adjectives, saying a good thing in this movie is the roundness of the characters. They have objectives and motives, flaws and qualities. He explains that this movie is based on a real life story and talks about each character (The main character, Christopher McCandless, his parents, Ron Franz).
2. Themes in the movie: Bradshaw talks about the main themes in this movie. Notably, the theme of nature is very important and used in a different way than in most movies. Nature is often seen as this unpredictable, dangerous place, such as in horror movies, but in this review Bradshaw says nature in Into the Wild is simply there, the place where the main character goes to when he abandons his normal life.
3. Flaws in the movie: Lastly, he mentions the main flaw he found in this movie which is the pretentiousness the movie can sometimes fall into.

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Summary: Peter Bradshaw, in this review, seems to have liked this movie. He talks about the director, Sean Penn, in very good words, saying he has, in Bradshaw's own words, "achieved a new maturity and depth as a director". The movie, based on the real life story of Christopher McCandless, has for him but one flaw, some "touches of machismo". Bradshaw mentions the film's cinematography with its colors and tones and says to be reminded of indie cinema. Bradshaw explains the story briefly, then talks about the great performances of the actor in McCandless' role and of the other characters. He also talks about the qualities and the roundness of all the characters. He then questions the main's character motives and ties the movie in with real societal issues, such as the search of freedom and of one's identity, and the importance our society puts on human interactions and material possessions. He then talks about the main themes in the movies, such as nature but also the importance of reading that the movie shows. Bradshaw then finishes his review precisising the flaw he found in this movie, but saying that in general the movie is thoughtful and provocative.