Video Productions • Johnson

You & Hollywood
film **Analysis**

The Basics:

For this film analysis you will be watching the movie "The Artist". Careful though! As a video production student though you need to watch with an analytical eye paying attention to the directors decisions and how the film is put together.

Intro & Directions

After you have finished watching the movie use a word processor (Google Docs is prefered) compose a 500-700 word formal 5 paragraph style essay (Hint #1) in 3rd person (Hint #2) to respond to one of the prompts below. Remember to address all of the points and use appropriate, specific video lingo!

For all essays, you can assume your reader has seen the film; this means that you aren't required to summarize what happens, but explain why or how it happens.

You will complete peer revision by sharing your essay with several class members to receive their comments. After revision you will turn in the final essay to Mr. Johnson.

Choose 1 Essay Prompt:

Essay Prompts

1) Explain how the creators of The Artist develop a particular theme (Hint #3) throughout the film. Use specific examples of plot events, character development, and technical aspects of the film (creative camera work, special effects, transitions, editing, lighting, background music, sound effects, etc…) to support your main point about how the creators of the film develop the theme you've chosen.

2) Choose a character from The Artist and another film that you believe the creators of each film are using to convey the same message or theme (Hint #3). Explain how the characters are used similarly/differently to affect this message in terms of plot development, interaction with other characters, and the character's personal development.

3) Explain how the creators of The Artist have not only overcome the selfimposed barrier of no audible dialogue, but used that silence to their advantage in capturing and holding an audience's attention. Do this using three specific aspects of the film such as but not limited to: plot, music/sound effects, onscreen text, sets/props, and/or cinematic techniques (creative camera work).

Hint #1: A fiveparagraph essay is not simply a jumble of words or sentences grouped into 5 paragraphs. It is a specific structure for an essay that includes an introduction with a thesis statement (onesentence primary unique and intriguing idea for your essay), 3 body paragraphs that help prove your thesis statement using specific information from the film, and a conclusion paragraph that sums up your main points again, but also takes your ideas one final step further. The last sentence should be profound and thoughtprovoking, but a capstone for the entire essay.

HINTS & TIPS

Hint #2: For an essay to be in formal 3rd person voice, it must not use any of these words except in quotations from the movies or other sources: "I, me, my, you, your, you're, we, our, us." Any essay that does use these words except in quotations from the film will lose significant points, so check your essay carefully and have your peer editors do the same. (Use the "Find" function of Microsoft Word if you don't think you'll get them all.)

Hint #3: Remember, a theme is not the same thing as a topic. Topics tend to be one word or short phrase. Themes are always a complete sentence or idea. Topics are what the story is about. Themes contain what the story says about the topic. Themes are the bridge between the story and reality; they contain a nugget of truth about both real life and the story. A moral is a type of very basic theme, usually found in nursery rhymes and simple stories. Morals tell people that certain behavior is acceptable or inappropriate but are cliché and "preachy". Avoid these and instead search for the deep inner truth about life that the film is revealing.

Evaluation Criteria

1.	Project Completeness & Timeliness	15 points
2.	Peer Review Comments (5 Required constructive, non-grammatical, comments)	15 points
3.	Quality of Analysis (Thoughtful, well defended, conclusions about directors descisions)	30 points
5.	Your typed analysis was neat, organized, free of mechanical errors and a minimum of two pages long, double-spaced, 12-pt. font	10 points

DUE DATES:

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TOTAL   **0 points**

Extra Effort & Creativity

Extra Credit Gladly Given For Superior Effort