

## Film Sequence Analysis (FSA)

So far this semester, we have discussed the importance of film in general and filming techniques in particular. Using your knowledge of film theory and technique, this paper requires the analysis of a small portion of a film of your choice based on both thematic elements and the technical filming style of the theme. (You may use a television show that is experimental in its use of filming style, but you need to clear this with me before you write the paper.)

For this paper, you need to:

- Identify a film that you would like to analyze. (I would recommend using a film that explores multiple camera angles and filming techniques.)
- From that film, you will choose a sequence of 15 to 20 camera shots that you will analyze for this paper. (This may be a full scene or a portion of the scene.)
- After selecting your sequence, you should take detailed notes on each scene that identify how characters are positioned, the position of objects, and the lighting of the scene. You should also identify the camera angle for each scene.
- You will then construct a clear and concise argument that dissects the sequence in terms of technique as well as an overall connection to the larger thematic elements at play in the film. Essentially, you will make an argument about how a sequence of shots in a film stylistically represents a larger theme in the film. Your thesis statement should clearly articulate this idea.
- Finally, you will need a Works Cited page at the end of the paper that cites the movie analyzed.

### Helpful Websites

- AMC, Filmsite: [www.filmsite.org/filmterms1.html](http://www.filmsite.org/filmterms1.html)
- Media College (film shots): [www.mediacollege.com/video/shots](http://www.mediacollege.com/video/shots)
- Media College (film movement): [www.mediacollege.com/video/shots/movement.html](http://www.mediacollege.com/video/shots/movement.html)
- Brick Films: [www.brickfilms.com/wiki/index.php?title=Types\\_of\\_Shots#Types\\_of\\_Shots](http://www.brickfilms.com/wiki/index.php?title=Types_of_Shots#Types_of_Shots)

I will evaluate your papers based on the following criteria:

- ✓ Does the paper analyze a sequence of 15 to 20 camera shots from a particular film?
- ✓ Does the writer make a clear argument that connects the filming technique to a larger film theme?
- ✓ Is there an introduction that builds up to the overall argument of your paper?
- ✓ Is there a clearly articulated and developed thesis?
- ✓ Are there strong topic sentences for each paragraph? And is each paragraph well-developed?
- ✓ Is each paragraph idea well-supported with evidence from the film?
- ✓ Is there a strong conclusion that does not simply restate what you've already said in your paper?
- ✓ Is there a Works Cited page?
- ✓ Are proper grammar, punctuation, spelling, and organization conventions observed?

**Format:** See Page \_\_\_\_ Syllabus

**Length:** 4-5 Pages

### Timeline:

- Conference Draft Due
- Peer Workshop Draft Due (with revisions from conference highlighted)
- Final For Now Draft Due (with revisions from peer workshop underlined)
- Final Draft Due in Final Portfolio (with new revisions highlighted and underlined)