

Turn in Assignment for Chapter 1 - Intro to Genre

Assignment Description

Before we get to the assignments, let's briefly discuss a few things. Creating stories is difficult. There are a lot of things that can get in the way of creative types when they are creating narratives. This is especially true of film. There are a lot of cooks in the kitchen and not all of them have good ideas. It's important to be able to distinguish between ideas that work and ideas that don't.

Tone is the easiest way for you to judge if an idea is working. What's the tone of a film? Is the idea that's being thrown into the mix similar in tone? If so, move forward. If not, then maybe reassess things a bit. Every element of a production should emphasize the tone of the piece. The camera angles, the casting, the soundtrack, and the special effects should all work in concert to establish a tone.

Let's examine some films that work, and specifically the ideas within their narratives that work. *Casablanca* (1942) is one of the greatest films ever made. It's a better sweet testament, not only to life during World War II, but to relationships that just too fractured and broken to be salvaged. The end of *Casablanca* is one of the most memorable endings in all of cinema. Humphrey Bogart's Rick puts his personal feelings aside for the good of both someone else's feelings and the war effort. The entire film is leading up to this moment. Every element in the film is working towards this payoff. If there had been a 'happy ending' the whole film wouldn't have worked. The tone of the picture was somber and earnest. If *Casablanca* had ended with Rick getting the girl then it would have been just like countless other aspiring romantic epics.

Switching gears to a more lowbrow front, *Dredd 3D* (2012) is a masterfully executed film. It knows exactly what it wants so be. It establishes the tone and then it doesn't deviate from it. It has no delusions of grandeur. It is trying to be a gratuitously violent action film straight out of 1987 and it succeeds. It's lean, mean, and it's brutal. Every decision is perfect for what they're trying to accomplish. The camera angles are utilitarian and to the point.

Another example of a film that knows exactly what it is, is *Attack the Block*. Everything from the way it was cast, to the framing of the shots, to the special effects are all decidedly on tone. They know they're making an inner city alien invasion movie. It's fun but not campy. It's scary but not frightening. It's cool but not glamorized. It knows exactly what it is.

Casting is a very important element to consider when attempting to achieve a specific goal with a film. You need to make sure that the actors are versatile enough to fulfill the roles' ultimate narrative purpose.

Many times films lose their intended tone and just simply don't work due to poor casting decisions. Keanu Reeves in Bram Stoker's Dracula is a perfect example. Gary Oldman is perfect as Count Dracula. Reeves can't even master an English accent. He grinds the momentum of the film to a complete halt every time he appears onscreen.

An easy comparison for good vs bad, or works vs doesn't work, is Batman Begins and Batman and Robin. Batman and Robin is a campy, over-the-top, and, frankly, lame film. It loses sight of anything that an audience that would attend a Batman movie would want to see. It's hokey, it's lame, and it doesn't work on any front. The casting is completely awful. Arnold Schwarzenegger as the cold and calculating genius Mr. Freeze? Arnold is a lot of things, colossal movie star, politician, and body builder, but a calculating genius? It just didn't work.

Batman Begins is a gritty, realistic portal of a man pushed too far. It positions Bruce Wayne as a protagonist that you can relate too. The story focuses on the costs of vigilantism, both on society and on the individual. It has depth and brevity. Batman and Robin had neither.

It's important to be able to discern when something is working and when an idea is a vestigial indulgence, rather than a vital story element.











1. Having your expectations well laid out and your goals clearly defined is the best way to start any endeavor. Therefore, for your first written assignment, write a 1-2 page paper detailing what you want out of the program, what you want to eventually do in the film industry, and how you plan on getting there. Be as detailed as possible. Be specific. This will allow us to help structure your education around your individual needs. No detail is too small.
2. Take three ideas that you have for movies and write your own synopsis for each. This is a very important step towards ultimately deciding what the project that you're going to be working on throughout the program will be. Don't write a seven-page paper on each of our ideas. Make these synopses like the ones you read. Short, sweet, and to the point. Get in, describe what happens in one or two sentences, and get out. After you've completed this, we will assist you in choosing your strongest concept. We will also help you in rounding out your idea.
3. Finally, Begin reading *The Writer's Journey* by Christopher Vogler. Get to reading, my friend, because you must complete the book by Lesson 4. That's a little ways away, sure. But it'll be here before you know it. Just chow down on some brain food.

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


Student: Erick Raphail

Chapter 1 - Intro to Genre - Quiz











1. What is an auteur? Who popularized the idea?

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<p>a filmmaker whose personal influence and artistic control over a movie are so great that the filmmaker is regarded as the author of the movie. Francois Truffaut was the person who popularized the idea.</p>												
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2. What effect did the lack of formal education have on Truffaut's career?











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<p>It had a positive effect, because instead of learning from a school, he chose to teach himself about films and expanded his knowledge through books. giving him a better understanding of the life he chose.</p>												
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3. Being a good director requires what?

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<p>Self discipline, drive, motivation, hard work, and passion.</p>												
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4. Compare and contrast the way Sam Raimi made Evil Dead and the way Tarantino made Reservoir Dogs.

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Both wrote their screenplays and were completed, as well having the drive to never give up on their dreams, even though Rami had to go out and find investors for his movie. tarantino had the luck of the straw for being able to meet a producer at a party to give him his screen play which started a domino effect and knock down all the right pieces landing his script on the laps of a big timer.

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Attachment

Attach a File

No file chosen

Save Your Work

 Submit

Note: Assignment will not be submitted unless you check "Complete". This assignment must also be turned in to your mentor.