

That Just Happened: A Brief History of the 21st Century Film Review Assignment

Choose two films from the list below and write two separate Film Reviews using the guidelines. Each Review should be approximately two pages in length, typed in 12 point font, and double spaced. Ideally, watch and discuss each film with your parents, guardians, relatives, and/or friends that lived through and remember this time period and use their knowledge in your review. For any R Rated films please get your parents permission before viewing.

••• Guidelines:

Use these guidelines to frame your Film Reviews. I have watched these films; I do not want to read simple plot summaries. Be specific in your analysis in each Review and substantiate your observations with specific facts from the film. And remember, film names are underlined or *italicized*, not “quoted.”

1. When was the film released?
2. What does the film tell us about the historical period with which it deals? How does the film portray the period and events it describes? Explain at least two specific parts of the film that support your opinion.
3. Does the film have any underlying messages about the historical event? If so, what? Which events, philosophies, etc. influence this film? Explain at least two specific parts of the film that support your opinion.
4. What did the film add to your understanding of the period it covered? Use specific evidence.
5. Based on class, family discussion, and the Internet, to what extent is the film accurate? Is anything left out of the story?
6. Based on class, family discussion, and the Internet, to what impact did this film have on American society in the 21st Century? Use specific examples.
7. Explain how the use of sound, music, and/or sound effects in the film exemplify, influence, or are influenced by the era. Use specific examples.
8. Explain how the film holds up as a piece of historical analysis. Explain at least two specific parts of the film that support your opinion.
9. Of what use is this film in showing or explaining the 21st Century, in part or as a whole?

••• 21st Century Film List:

1. 127 Hours
2. 8 Mile
3. American Dreamz
4. Blood Diamond
5. Breach
6. Control Room
7. Enron: The Smartest Guys in the Room
8. Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close
9. Fahrenheit 9/11
10. In the Valley of Elah
11. Inside Job
12. Margin Call
13. Moneyball
14. No End in Sight
15. Outfoxed
16. Recount
17. Rendition
18. Slumdog Millionaire
19. Syriana
20. The Departed
21. The Hurt Locker
22. The Impossible
23. The Kingdom
24. The Social Network
25. The Tillman Story
26. The Woman Who Wasn't There
27. Too Big to Fail
28. Traffic
29. United 93
30. Zero Dark Thirty

Be sure to choose two films to review separately. Each review is worth 10 points. The films may be available on DVD at the Montclair Library. I also have a few on DVD so check with me if you can't find them elsewhere.