**How to analyze a film (e.g. artist's film)**

Historical/Contextual Details: When and where was the film released?

Do you think the film was created for a peculiar culture or society? For which culture or society was this film created?

(Before you watch…) What do you think the title means? What do you expect from the film because of it?

(After watching…) How does the film start? How does this affect you as a viewer?

**Identify the main theme/s:**

a) Story/Plot/Theme Development: Briefly summarise the story. What is the opening scene/situation? How does the story develop? What happens at the end of the film? What are the three most important scenes in the film? Why? What is/are the main theme/s in the film? What scene constitutes the film's climax? How does this scene illustrate the main idea of the film? Does the film leave any disunities (loose ends) at the end? If so, what does it suggest? Why does the film conclude on this particular image?

b) Setting (time and place): Where is the story set? When is the story set? Is the setting important for the development of the main theme/s?

c) Characters and characterisation (describing essential features): Who is/are the main character/s? How are the characters developed (through description or dialogue)? What are the characters like? What is their purpose in the film? What do they do/wear/say, etc. that establishes this purpose? Are there secondary characters? Are they important? Why?

d) (‘Cinematographic’) Language: How does the film use colour or light/dark to suggest tone and mood in different scenes? Are there any striking uses of perspective (seeing through a character's eyes, camera angle/point of view, etc.)? How does this relate to the meaning of the scene?

e) Mise-en-Scene: Are there any motifs (scenes, images, colors) that are repeated or have a special impact? When do they occur and what purpose do they serve?

f) Sound/Soundtrack: Is sound or silence used to enhance the film? (i.e., create drama, heighten tension, disorient the viewer, aid characterization, foreshadowing, etc.)

Using your notes from the previous pages, consider the following prompts as a start to your analysis:

• How does this film relate to literary texts? Can you find similar features you can consider and analyse (story / plot / setting / time / place / characters / use of language / figures of speech……)?

• How are they different/the same?

• What is the artist /director’s purpose? Is/are there any messages or peculiar themes in the film?

• What are the main and secondary characters like? How are they created? What roles do the characters play? How do they relate to the message of the film?

• Does the artist / director use symbols in the film? What are they? What do they mean?

• What is influencing the film (e.g. social/cultural ideologies, historical/social/cultural events, personal life)?

• Is the artist /director trying to do something new in the genre/time period? What is she or he trying to change?

Did you enjoy watching the film? What did you enjoy the most (choose a scene / character / message / peculiar aspect)? Explain….

Have you ever seen any other films related to the same theme/s?

How does the film compare to other films of the same theme/s you know?

See: Google "film analysis" for related sources