

Mentor Film Review Guidelines

During the term we will watch 4 films. Each will require a critical review of approximately one page. All film reviews are due the following week. That is, if we watch a film on Monday (Wednesday) the review is due in mentor session one week later.

Late work will be marked down. Attendance is required, but if you must miss a film one make-up can be made by arrangement and turning in the appropriate review.

Each review should be double-spaced with 12pt. font. Do not put spaces between paragraphs, but indent your paragraphs instead. Construct a good introduction and conclusion. Do not summarize the film.

The review should include at least 1 paragraph connecting the film to larger issues of sustainability which have been covered in class and reading assignments. Include at least 1 paragraph of critical review: Examine the main ideas presented in the film for both strengths and weaknesses.

Was the film persuasive?

Does the film convey its message well?

Was the film's evidence convincing?

Examine the film closely to determine if you think, based on your experience, knowledge, and expertise, the film did a good job dealing with the issues.

More specific questions may be assigned for specific films.

Grammar and spelling are also important - points will be taken off for poor spelling, improper punctuation, and bad grammar. If you have questions about grammatical issues, talk to Jake.

The following examples** should be of some assistance.

1) Use good subject, verb, object order and active verbs.

Ex: The people who participated in the study were subject to many different tests.

Instead: The study's subjects underwent extensive testing.

2) Use relative pronouns properly.

Ex: There are many prisoners that have been unjustly executed.

Instead: There are many prisoners **who** have been unjustly executed.

Even better: The justice system has unjustly executed many prisoners.

3) Do not end sentences with prepositions.

Ex: Scientists have not yet found all the evidence they are looking for.

Instead: Scientists are still searching for evidence.

4) Capitalize only proper nouns.

Ex: "My Dad wants me to go home now."

Instead: "My dad wants me to go home now."

5) Avoid excessive prepositional phrases.

Ex: The reason there was no evidence was due to the fact that the police officers did not question the suspect with regard to the crime at hand.

Instead: The officers failed to properly question the suspect, which resulted in a lack of evidence.

6) Avoid excessive use of the verb of being (to be).

Ex: Basketball is a sport designed to be able to help people improve their physical fitness.

Instead: Basketball can help people improve their physical fitness.

7) Verbs must agree in number and tense.

Ex: Many people's desires falls short of their ability to perform.

Instead: Many people's desires fall short of their ability to perform.