

# **How to Write a Film Review Article**

## **Introduction:**

Most university students are unfamiliar with the process of drafting and editing a publishable film review article. The information presented in this leaflet provides comprehensive instructions on the finer points of producing a polished film review article, and includes tips on effective note-taking, and refining research skills.

### ***What is a film review article?***

A film review article is a piece of academic writing that critically analyses and evaluates newly published literature, and incorporates the elements of a film review and a literature review into a single article. It consists of two main parts: a film review and a literature review. It is usually a mixture of personal opinion, specific quotes and content from the film, and scholarly works. Film review articles are often themed, and critique several arguments about the text within that thematic framework.

The film review serves to not only summarise the film, but to introduce themes and issues that you have identified in the text. It should contain your own reflections and interpretations of themes presented in the film. The purpose of the literature review is to add interpretations and reflection of themes in the text that are not your own. These pieces can either support or offer alternative views on your interpretations of the film. Combined, the film review and literature review provide the correct blend of personal and academic opinion to create a cohesive, argumentative article.

### ***Why write a film review article?***

A good film review offers a personal dimension to a film, allowing the author of the article to convey their theories and arguments about the film in a clear manner. It can also serve as a means of measuring the weight or relevance of several different arguments about the film, in the style of an argumentative essay. But most importantly, a good film review article provides its audience with a focused look at the film, with the advantage of academic backing and critique.

*The following steps are designed to make the planning, scripting and editing of your film review article easier. Please view the instructions carefully and follow all of the steps outlined.*

## **Step 1: How to write a film review**

### **1. Review the film thoroughly.**

On your first viewing, enjoy. Good films cannot be properly appreciated if they are only viewed because compulsory for your course. The difference between a good film review article and an excellent one often depends on the author's ability to understand the underlying themes and emotions woven into the text. So, think about it: paint pictures of the characters in your mind, and try to appreciate what it offers you as a viewer.