English 2 Spring 2017 **Peer Review Worksheet: Rhetorical Analysis of a Film**

Writer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Reviewer:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

for the writer:
1. What is your **thesis**? Where is it? (Put an asterisk by it on the draft.)

2. **Audience & forum** (the target readers of your analysis & where you’d publish it) Please be specific! Don’t say “a blog.”

3. What in particular do you want your reviewer to check?

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For the reviewer: Write answers on the back of this sheet if necessary.

1. Are the **title and introduction** engaging enough to draw in the **intended readers**? ­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Does the introduction contain an overview of the topic that orients the reader to the issue in its current **context**? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Does it look like the writer has focused the topic narrowly enough to deal with it adequately in a relatively short paper? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Note: Warn the student if there is excessive plot summary in the beginning (or anywhere else)!

2. Is the **thesis** clear and reasonable, considering the evidence provided? \_\_\_\_\_ **Is there enough support (i.e. support from sources, brief plot points)** to adequately persuade you of the writer’s claims about the film, his/her **interpretation** of the film’s meaning? If not, which claim needs more support? You might also recommend what kind of support (plot points, dialog, character development).

3. **Are there at least two sources (film critics and/or the filmmaker) referred to and cited properly** (in the style usual for newspapers)? \_\_\_\_\_ Note: Within the text of the review, the quote or paraphrase should be cited as in a newspaper, with enough info in the signal phrase to give credit and let your reader find more. Examples: Scott Tobias writing for the entertainment Web site *The A.V. Club* says it best when he writes that the colorful dialogue is often “too ostentatious for its own good, but the film’s sincerity is what ultimately carries it across.” Or, “In a recent interview for the *NY Times*, J.K. Rowling said her new film is set in the 1920s because it was an era that “was threatening to become very dystopian.”

4. Does the essay provide enough **cultural and/or historical context** for this particular audience to understand the film and its significance both to its original audience and to us in the here and now?

5**.**  Is there **genuine analysis** that establishes this writer’s own “take” on the film: analysis of **its meaning**, **interpretation of a central theme**, a **unique response** to it that establishes why this audience should care about the film? If not, ask the writer questions that his/her audience might want answered that might lead toward an adequate personal commentary on the film.

6. Comment on the **organization and coherence** of each paragraph. Are the **transitions** between paragraphs adequate but not mechanical or repetitive? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mark on the draft any problems.

7. **Troubleshooting**: Is there **too much plot retelling**? \_\_\_\_\_\_ Is the plot told in one lump, without commentary? \_\_\_\_ Is there **too much evaluation** instead of analysis? \_\_\_\_\_ If any of these common problems are evident, WARN the writer and suggest a better way to handle this.