**Viewing Films and Taking Notes
Below are several suggestions/tips for what to look for when watching a film:**
\*Don't take you eyes off the screen while you're taking notes.
\*Figure out who the main character(s) are, what his/her goal is, and how he/she accomplishes it or not=conflicts.
\*How does it open? How does it end?
\*Make notes succinct and make rough sketches of sequences, shots, scenes to return to later.
\*Make a note of the time of each important shot. For instance, write 09:43 so you can ask questions in class or re-watch that sequence at home.
\*Write down any quotes from the film that you found interesting, moving, important, symbolic, etc. Remember all films begin with a story/screenplay.
\*Organize your notes by the film's plot or narrative system. Try to break the film down by scenes, locations, time, character, etc. Plot vs. Story. Depth vs Range.
\*Talk about it with others. What film did it remind you? Why? How? Formulate ideas. What did you like about it? What didn't you like? How did you feel? Why? How did the film look? What is it about? What does the film say about people? life? love? truth? the world? the universe? Figure out what you know, what you don't know, and what you still need to know. Is it knowable?
\*WHO? WHAT? WHY? WHEN? WHERE? HOW? Tie these questions to elements and terms. For example, When was voice-over used? Why? How? or Where did flashback occur? What did we learn? About Whom?
\*Who made it? When? Genre? What does it say about society? Values? What can learn about history? culture? politics? psychology?
\*\*See specific elements for the unit you are studying such as editing, cinematography, genre, etc.