

Unit 1 Analysis Sheet: Narrative, Form, and Content

1. What is the title of the film? Does the title have any meaning?

Does it appear in the film? Do the opening credits help us understand the title? Why is the title appropriate? What does it mean in terms of the whole film? How many different levels of meaning are expressed in the title? How does each level apply to the film as a whole? If the title is ironic, what opposite meanings or contrasts does it suggest? If you recognize the title as being an allusion, why is the work or passage alluded to an appropriate one? If the title calls your attention to a key scene, why is that scene important? How is the title related to the theme?

2. What is the film's story and theme? **Story** is all the events we see or hear on the screen, and all the events that are implicit or that we infer to have happened but that are not explicitly presented. **The content is the subject of the artwork.**

- *What does the film say about: **life, human nature, society and its problems, the struggle for human dignity, the complexity of human relationships, coming of age, or moral and philosophical riddles?** The theme isn't "love." What exactly is the film saying about love? Write the theme in a statement.*
- *How are the major **symbols** related to the theme? Use examples of dialogue and screenshots from scenes as evidence.*
- *Is this a **good story**? Explain. Pick out specific scenes to prove your points. What makes the film interesting? Was it credible? Was it simple and complex? Where are its high points and its dead spots? What makes you bored by the film as a whole or by certain parts? How honest and sincere is the film in its handling of emotional material? Where are the emotional effects overdone? Besides being entertaining, did the film remain unified. Did all parts work together?*

3. Explain the plot. A movie's plot is a **structure** for presenting everything that we see and hear in a film: (1) the **diegetic** events arranged in a certain order plus (2) **nondiegetic** material. The arrangement of plot events into a logical sequence or hierarchy. **How is the film structured? Form is the means by which a subject is expressed. How does the form help create the meaning? Why this order?**

- *Is the film organized by **cause and effect, spatial, and temporal structure**? Is it **linear? non-linear**? Where does it use **flashbacks, parallelism, repetition, motifs**?*
- *Who is the **narrator**? How does the camera function as narrator? Is the narration omniscient or restricted? Is the narrator reliable? What do we learn from the narrator?*
- *Explain **depth and range**. Where do we experience the most change of knowledge?*
- *Identify the central **character or characters**. Who is the protagonist? What is the protagonist's goal? Who or what is the antagonist? What about each character's motivation? Which minor characters function to bring out personality traits of the major characters, and what do these minor characters reveal?*
- *Identify the **major conflict**. Is the conflict internal (individual against self), external, or a combination of the two? Is it primarily a physical or a psychological conflict?*
- *How does the film end? Goal reached? Conflicts resolved? Change of knowledge?*

***Use a chart, graph, diagram, etc to explain the plot.**