

# INTRODUCTION TO FILM CRITICISM PHILOSOPHY

## Grades 10-12

The West Jefferson Hills School District Introduction to Film Criticism curriculum ...

### **Goals of Introduction to Film Criticism:**

Through a thorough study of the history of modern cinema and current cinematic conventions and techniques, students will gain an appreciation and ability to “read” a film beyond its standard on-screen meaning for deeper understanding behind the goals and motivations of the film’s director, producer, and producing studio. Students will further learn about the application of literary techniques to film and be able to identify how these conventions are used and what emotions they are designed to elicit in the viewers of film. Using this knowledge, students will create their own cinematic critiques in which they identify the conventions used in the film to convey the message or goal of the director that lies beneath the visual surface of the film.

Additionally, students will further model professional film critics in creating their own reviews that focus on adopting a critical position towards a selected film and explaining through that position how a film’s directorial decisions are effective or ineffective in communicating a message or emotion to its audience. Using this position, students will make a determination about the overall impact of the film on the genre, industry, and culture in the opinion of the student-reviewer. It is hoped that through an introduction to the analysis of film, students will gain a more critical eye for the world around them and be more inclined to question and ponder events and occurrences that interest them.