

# English IV: Film Analysis and Composition.

Mehlville School District  
English Language Arts  
Grades 11 - 12, Duration 1 Semester, .5 Credits

## Rationale

Film is an integral part of American culture. The Film Analysis and Composition class examines film's importance in America and offers the student a chance to view film and film techniques in a new manner. Film analysis techniques provide tools to critically analyze and deconstruct the rapid flow of visual information today's student commonly experiences. Visual literacy is a necessary skill for today and for the future.

## Course Description

This English Language Arts course offers the student an opportunity to view film as an art form and write and talk about the experience. It provides an overview of the roles involved in producing a film including directing, screenwriting, editing, acting, and other areas of creativity. This film course covers major film genres and early film history. It also examines film's role and influence in society. A minimum of three major finished writing pieces, Socratic discussion, and a culminating presentation are required. Formats include film review, critical essay, direct application response, compare and contrast essay, student produced film, and persuasive presentation. Additional assignments for each film will also be required.

## Prerequisites

Prerequisite: English I and English II  
Open to: 11, 12

Credit:  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Unit - One Semester (English Language Arts)

## Course Objectives

1. The student will participate in formal and informal oral discussion and presentations, including Socratic Seminars, collaborative projects, and student-led class dialogues, analyze speaker's purpose, as well as focus on speaking skills including tone, volume, eye contact, etc., and complete a minimum of one developed, formal multi-media presentation. (A+ Speaking and Listening)
2. The student will engage regularly in academic and personal research, distinguish among sources based on quality, practice academic honesty, utilize style guides (including MLA), and produce a minimum of three formal researched products such as essays, presentations, projects, etc. (A+ Research)
3. The student will read daily, including a required anchor text of substance (such as a novel, memoir, informational text) of sufficient text complexity to prepare students for college-level texts, with a minimum expectation of 75 pages of reading per week (including research). (A+ Reading)
4. The student will write daily (including journaling, creative pieces, summary, short response, etc.), and engage in the writing process (including pre-writing, drafting, revising, editing, and conferencing with the teacher), with a minimum expectation of 3-4 finished pieces of substance produced each semester (such as essay, narrative, argument, script, etc.). (A+ Writing)
5. The student will identify and analyze film production elements and filmmaking techniques used in a variety of films and genres spanning film history.
6. The student will identify and analyze the various professional roles (including directing, producing, acting, casting, and cinematography) involved in film production.
7. The student will study the elements and conventions of various film genres (including the western, science fiction, horror) and analyze the way genres evolve over time.
8. The student will analyze film from an artistic perspective and examine stylistic decisions and auteur theory in film making.
9. The student will compare and contrast the adaptation of book to film using age and content appropriate source material.

BOE 11/10/16