

Hollywood History Essay

Most Americans learn their history from movies. This assignment is a critical analysis of this form of education. Your essay must be typed in the following format.

1st Paragraph- Historical Background

This will require a little research on your part. Give a historical background/introduction about the historical event covered in the film.

2nd Paragraph- Preface

Give the title of the movie, year made, actors and actresses, and explain the main idea of the movie.

3rd Paragraph- Plot Synopsis

Explain the story. (This is where many students go on and on, be brief and to the point) Give a summary of the movie as if you were telling a friend about the movie.

4th Paragraph- Theme

Explain the message(s) the film is trying to convey. Give *examples* of how the film portrays the message(s).

5th Paragraph- Accuracy Analysis

Very few movies are completely historically accurate. Based on your research (¶ 1) and observations of the film, explain the historical accuracy and inaccuracies of the film. What was added for entertainment value and why?

Movies:

Unit A: Colonization-Revolution

Amistad (1997: Morgan Freeman) R
The Patriot (2000: Mel Gibson) R
The Alamo (2004: Dennis Quade)

Unit B: The Civil War & The Gilded Age

Gettysburg (1993: Martin Sheen)
Dances with Wolves (1990: Kevin Costner)
Gold Rush (1999: Alyssa Milano)
Newsies (1992: Robert Duvall)



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Unit C: WWI

Sergeant York (1941: Gary Cooper)
A farewell to Arms (1932: Gary Cooper)
1918 (1985: William Converse)
In Love and War (1996: Chris O'Donnell)

Unit D: the 20's

Matewan (1987: James Earl Jones)
Eight Men Out (1988: John Cusack)
The Newton Boys (Matthew McConaughey)

Unit E: the 30's

Seabiscuit (2003 Tobey Maguire)
Cinderella Man (2005: Russell Crowe)
Grapes of Wrath (1940 Henry Fonda)

Unit F: WWII

Fat Man Little Boy (1989: Paul Newman)
Saving Private Ryan (1998: Tom Hanks) R
Band of Brothers (2004)
Flags of Our Fathers (2006)

Unit G: 1950's

Dr. Strangelove (1964: George C. Scott)
The Long Walk Home (1991: Whoopi Goldberg)
Malcolm X (1992: Denzel Washington) R
Mississippi Burning (1988: Gene Hackman)

Unit H: 1960's and Contemporary History

JFK (1991: Kevin Costner) R
Good Morning Vietnam (1987: Robin Williams) R
Apollo 13 (Tom Hanks)
Nixon (1995: Anthony Hopkins) R
Miracle (Kurt Russell)

