



Lesson Plan: Genre Analysis

Activity: writing a film review

Focus: identifying genre features

Level: grade 7 and higher (adjustable according to authentic materials used)

In this lesson students will be encouraged to write film reviews of films they have already seen. They will learn to write in the style of a particular genre and to make appropriate language choices for a specific audience.

Students are first asked to bring to class a sampling of film reviews in English. They can bring in material from This week in Palestine or from Internet websites. For each review they have, students are asked to complete the following genre analyzing activity:

By studying the film reviews and answering the questions above, students will have a greater understanding of how film reviews are generally written. Students should make notes about a film they have recently seen regarding plot, characters, the performances, the music, the cinematography and special effects.

Students can then make a draft review, recycling any language they discovered was effective in the sample film reviews. Teachers should monitor, providing feedback wherever possible. Peer editing is a good idea before handing in a final copy. The class can then vote for the best review, judging it based in relation to authentic film reviews.

Sample film reviews:

Reviewers' Genre-Analyzing Kit

Answer the following questions about the review you are reading:

Meaning

What film is being reviewed?

Does the reviewer like it?

What, if anything, was especially good about the film being reviewed?

What, if anything, was especially bad about the film being reviewed?

Who, if anybody, deserves credit for their role in the film?

Who, if anybody, should be criticized for their role in the film?

What, if anything, does the film remind the reviewer of?

Construction

How is the headline constructed?

What does each paragraph contain, and how are the paragraphs sequenced?

What grammar and vocabulary is used to show approval?

What grammar and vocabulary is used to show disapproval?

