



Directors & DIY Filmmakers

Film Study Sheet

To get the most out of this worksheet, we strongly recommend you read through all the questions before sitting down to watch. Don't try to answer questions fully as you're watching the film, instead only taking notes on the dedicated "Notes" page whenever you're able to without detracting or distracting from the film you're watching. When the film is over, take 5 minutes to let it sit with you, if needed, then immediately return to answer these questions while the film is fresh in your mind.

Answer each question thoroughly and seriously. The more thought you put into this, the more you'll get out of it.

1. Identify the film or show you are studying. Title? Release date? Director?

2. Does the opening scene grab your attention? How, and what does it make you feel? If not, what is it missing?

3. What tone does the opening scene convey? After seeing it, what do you expect from the rest of the film?

4. What was the core theme(s) of the film?

5. Could you identify the theme(s) easily? If not, what do you think was missing in conveying them?

6. What camera movements did the director utilize most often? What does it achieve?

7. Does the director utilize any particular shot framing (i.e. Wide Shot, Medium, etc) more often than others? If so, what do you think they're trying to accomplish?

8. Do the cast performances feel grounded in the reality of the story? Heightened? Subdued? What direction do you think was given to bring out those performances?

9. Could you easily identify the "inciting incident" in the plot? Why, or why not?

10. Did you notice any subtext in what types of shots were chosen for each character or scene? (i.e. locked off or tripod shots for one character and shaky, handheld for another)

11. Can you identify any moments in the film where the director deliberately denied showing you something? (i.e. Cutting away before a character makes a drastic choice, or panning to a painting on the wall when a character was being murdered.)

12. If the answer to 11 was "yes," what do you think the director gained (or lost) by not showing you?

13. Did the director make deliberate, intentional use of color palettes in the film? If so, were you able to discern the meaning? If not, how would you have incorporated color in the film?

14. How did the director's pacing of the scenes (and edit) affect the tone and feel of the story?

15. Pick one scene from the film that you would normally consider out of your budget or resources. If you had to adapt that scene **now** with your current resources, what would you do? (Be as detailed as you can be: Sourcing actors, replicating or approximating lighting – this is your chance to really force your mind into creative innovation!)
