

Current Date

Dear Parents:

The eighth grade English class is beginning an independent research project to help meet state requirements and provide students an opportunity to enhance their research and writing skills. See the attached list for the top 100 movies as listed by the American Film Institute. The bolded movies have been chosen for appropriate content and theme. With your help, students should choose one of these movies or any one of the top 100 movies as you deem appropriate. Students should view the movie two times – the first for overall content and entertainment value, and the second for taking notes on the significant elements that make the movie one of quality. You may even wish to have other family members watch the movie with you and your child to get different perspectives. Students may also access one of several websites (see below) to research reviews/critiques of the movie they choose. Students will be asked to make a written report based on their research and their own viewing notes. If you do not have access to a VCR or the Internet, please contact me, and I'm sure we can make confidential arrangements for an alternative assignment.

Sincerely,

Your Name

I give _____ permission to view/research the
(student name)
following movie: _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

<http://www.aol.com/webchannels/entertainment.html#movies>

<http://www.afi.100movies.com/facts.asp>

<http://www.afionline.org>

100 Years...100 Movies
Viewing, Listening, Speaking, and Writing Project

Tips for writing your report

1. Plan the report.

- a. Select an idea or topic for your report.
- b. Gather information for your report.
- c. Identify the information you want to include in your report. Remember you should have at least three ways to support the main idea of your report. Include details and specific information that will help make your point.
- d. Write a draft.
- e. Review what you have written. Try reading the report aloud. It can help you catch mistakes.
- f. Check spelling and punctuation. Each sentence should begin with a capital letter and end with a period, question mark, or exclamation mark.
- g. Create the final report.

2. Add interest.

- a. Use graphs and charts to illustrate an idea.
- b. Include a picture, photo, drawing, or map.
- c. Find a quotation, and use it to make your point.

3. Make every word count.

- a. Choose words your reader will understand. Remember you want to communicate your idea to the person reading your paper.
- b. Avoid clichés.
- c. Use a thesaurus to replace overworked words and find new ways to express your ideas.

This is the **American Film Institute's** list of the 100 Greatest Movies, selected by AFI's blue-ribbon panel of more than 1,500 leaders of the American movie community.

- 1. Citizen Kane (1941)**
2. Casablanca (1942)
3. Godfather, The (1972)
- 4. Gone With the Wind (1939)**
- 5. Lawrence of Arabia (1962)**
- 6. Wizard of Oz, The (1939)**
7. Graduate, The (1967)
8. On the Waterfront (1954)
9. Schindler's List (1993)
- 10. Singin' in the Rain (1952)**
- 11. It's a Wonderful Life (1946)**
12. Sunset Boulevard (1950)
- 13. Bridge on the River Kwai, The (1957)**
14. Some Like it Hot (1959)
- 15. Star Wars (1977)**
16. All About Eve (1950)
17. African Queen, The (1951)
18. Psycho (1960)
19. Chinatown (1974)
20. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975)
- 21. Grapes of Wrath (1940)**
22. 2001: A Space Odyssey (1968)
23. Maltese Falcon, The (1941)
24. Raging Bull (1980)
- 25. E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982)**
26. Dr. Strangelove (1964)
27. Bonnie & Clyde (1967)
28. Apocalypse Now (1979)
- 29. Mr. Smith Goes to Washington (1939)**
- 30. Treasure of the Sierra Madre (1948)**
31. Annie Hall (1971)
32. Godfather Part II, The (1974)
- 33. High Noon (1952)**
- 34. To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)**
35. It Happened One Night (1934)
36. Midnight Cowboy (1969)
37. Best Years of Our Lives, The (1946)
38. Double Indemnity (1944)
39. Dr. Zhivago (1965)
- 40. North by Northwest (1959)**
- 41. West Side Story (1961)**
- 42. Rear Window (1954)**

- 43. King Kong (1933)**
- 44. Birth of a Nation, The (1915)**
45. Streetcar Named Desire, A (1951)
46. Clockwork Orange, A (1971)
47. Taxi Driver (1976)
48. Jaws (1975)
- 49. Snow White & the Seven Drawfs (1937)**
50. Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid (1969)
51. Philadelphia Story, The (1940)
52. From Here to Eternity (1953)
53. Amadeus (1984)
- 54. All Quiet on the Western Front (1930)**
- 55. Sound of Music, The (1965)**
56. M*A*S*H (1970)
57. Third Man, The (1949)
- 58. Fantasia (1940)**
- 59. Rebel Without a Cause (1955)**
- 60. Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)**
- 61. Vertigo (1958)**
62. Tootsie (1982)
63. Stagecoach (1939)
64. Close Encounter of the Third Kind (1977)
65. Silence of the Lambs, The (1991)
66. Network (1976)
67. Manchurian Candidate, The (1962)
68. American in Paris, An (1951)
- 69. Shane (1953)**
70. French Connection, The (1971)
71. Forrest Gump (1994)
- 72. Ben-Hur (1959)**
73. Wuthering Heights (1939)
- 74. Gold Rush, The (1925)**
75. Dances With Wolves (1990)
76. City Lights (1931)
77. American Graffiti (1973)
78. Rocky (1976)
79. Deer Hunter, The (1978)
80. Wild Bunch, The (1969)
81. Modern Times (1936)
- 82. Giant (1956)**
83. Platoon (1986)
84. Fargo (1996)
- 85. Duck Soup (1933)**
- 86. Mutiny on the Bounty (1935)**
- 87. Frankenstein (1931)**
88. Easy Rider (1969)

89. Patton (1970)
- 90. Jazz Singer, The (1927)**
- 91. My Fair Lady (1964)**
92. Place in the Sun, The (1951)
93. Apartment, The (1960)
94. Goodfellas (1990)
95. Pulp Fiction (1994)
- 96. Searchers, The (1956)**
- 97. Bringing up Baby (1938)**
98. Unforgiven (1992)
- 99. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner (1967)**
- 100. Yankee Doodle Dandy (1942)**

Student Products

1. Using research and viewing notes, construct a graphic organizer for a five-paragraph essay.
Do not summarize the film!
2. Compose a thesis sentence **promoting the title as an ideal selection** for the top 100. Use ideas presented in class.
3. Decide the three supporting points you plan to use based on your notes.
4. Jot phrases and details from notes and viewing FIRE's (Facts, Instances, Reasons, and Examples) to support your points.
5. Create dramatic opening for the essay: quotations, startling or dramatic statement...
6. Complete graphic organizer as needed.
7. Have graphic organizer checked by _____ (date)
8. Write rough draft and have checked by _____ (date)
9. Revise rough draft and highlight changes made to improve your essay.
10. Type or write final copy in black or blue ink and hand in with graphic organizer, rough draft, and revised copy.

Completed project is due by _____
(date).

List of items expected to turn in:

1. Graphic Organizer (5%)
2. Rough Draft w/viewing notes (5%)
Notes should include reasons/points discussed in class.
3. Revised essay w/changed areas highlighted (10%)
4. Final (typed) copy to be scored 1-6 based on FL Writes/Six Traits of Writing
Focus, Organization, Support, and Conventions (80%)

Websites:

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