

# The Critic's Role: Beyond the Thumb

The Art of Film  
Criticism

AHS Film & Video Production

## 01 INTRODUCTION

- Hello Chance!
- Why Film Criticism Matters
- Debunking Myths

## 02 TYPES OF FILM CRITICISM

- Reviews
- Essays
- Academic Analysis

## 03 WHAT MAKES A GOOD REVIEW?

- Brainstorm Activity
- Key Elements of a Strong Review

## 04 FILM CLIP ANALYSIS

- Clip: The Color of Money
- Class Brainstorm

## 05 ANALYZING REVIEWS

- Two Reviews on Spider-Man: No Way Home
- Small Group Activity
- Compare & Contrast the Reviews
- Which was more persuasive and why?

## 06 WRITING REVIEWS

- Write a 5-minute review

## 07 WRAP & REFLECT

- Challenges & Rewards of Film Criticism
- Encouraging Critical Thinking
- Resources for Further Exploration

- Allow me to introduce:
  - Chance!
  - Background & passion for film criticism
- Why Film Criticism Matters
- Debunking Myths
  - More than just "thumbs up/thumbs down"
  - Not inherently negative
  - Must consider the larger artform
- Video
  - *Siskel and Ebert - The Biggest Arguments*

## TYPES OF FILM CRITICISM

- Reviews
  - Short-form
  - Audience-focused
- Essays
  - Thematic
  - Analytical
- Academic Analysis
  - Deep research
  - Film theory

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD REVIEW?

- Brainstorm Activity:
  - "What do you look for in a film review?"
- Key Elements of a Strong Review:
  - Summary (concise, no spoilers)
  - Analysis (narrative, cinematography, sound, themes)
  - Context (genre, director, historical significance)
  - Opinion with Justification
  - Personal Voice & Style

## ANALYZING REVIEWS

- Two Reviews
  - *Spider-Man: No Way Home*
- Small Group Activity:
  - Identify elements of a strong review
  - Discuss strengths & weaknesses
  - Compare contrasting perspectives

- Clip: Werewolves of London - The Color of Money
- Class Brainstorm:
  - Visual Style
  - Character Motivations
  - Directorial Choices

## REVIEW EXERCISE

- Write a 5-minute review of the last movie you saw.
  - Focus on visuals
- Individual Writing Time (10 minutes)



## WRAP AND REFLECTION

- Challenges & Rewards of Film Criticism
- Encouraging Critical Thinking
- Resources for Further Exploration:
  - RogerEbert.com
  - Letterboxd - a community of cinephiles
  - Podcasts like Blank Check and The Big Picture (and \*whispers\* The Kick)
  - *The Atlantic & IndieWire Reviews*
- Find a Movie Portal and Walk Through It

# Questions?

# THANK YOU

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