



# Psychology & Film Finale

Psychology, the study of human behavior and mental processes, finds its way into every aspect of our personal, professional, and public lives. This is certainly evident in film, where the psychological circumstances surrounding a character create great drama. Whether a film focuses on a farmer or a fighter pilot, a priest or a pauper, a student or a scientist, it garners much of the depth of these characters from psychology. **So, as a culminating activity to close out this course, you'll analyze these folks. You will . . .**

- ✓ **Select a film (or TV series)** that has a complex lead character.
  - ◆ The film **should NOT be a comedy or horror film**, for these characters are often one-dimensional (It's a good rule to steer clear of films starring Saturday Night Live alums- the likes of *Will Ferrell's movies, Bridesmaids, Caddyshack, Ghostbusters, Austin Powers, Happy Gilmore, Tommy Boy, etc.*). If you feel compelled to go the comedy or horror route, you must gain approval by verbally defending your choice to me before you begin.
  - ◆ We will select a day to post your choices on our Classroom Stream, and it will be first come, first served (only 1 student per film with NO overlaps)
- ✓ **Summarize the plot** of the film.
- ✓ **Identify a main character** to analyze.
- ✓ **Identify one (or more) psychological issue(s)** pertaining to that character. (e.g. inability to connect emotionally, carries scars of trauma, pride & personal history prevent effective living, poor self-image, overprotective of loved ones, family-culture & larger society have ingrained behaviors, etc.) We've covered a lot of terrain in this course, so you have great latitude here.
- ✓ **Read and summarize at least one article** pertaining to this issue.
- ✓ **Analyze the character through a psychological lens**, employing your understanding of the material & perspectives we've explored this term and the article(s) you found. Remember to **USE SPECIFICS** and to address the all-important **HOW** and **WHY**. Demonstrate your grasp of the material and your ability to apply it through your analysis of the character, **USING IDEAS, INSIGHTS, AND SPECIFIC TERMINOLOGY FROM THIS SEMESTER.**
  - ✓ **For example, you might analyze a character through a lens of psychoanalytic & cognitive perspectives + exploring the motivations (intrinsic/extrinsic/Maslow's Hierarchy?), memories, emotions, associations & conditioning (positive reinforcement?) that present challenges for her.**
- ✓ **Create a slide presentation** highlighting the ideas in your paper. A good guide would be to have 1 slide for each main area of your paper. This will be shared for our in-class, gallery presentations.

You will be evaluated on the quality of your thinking, the breadth & depth of your pursuit & analysis, your use of **SPECIFIC** course material, and the clarity of your written presentation.

DUE: \_\_\_\_\_

POINTS: \_\_\_\_\_ 100

## *Rubric: Psychology Film Finale*

<b>80 TOTAL PTS</b>	<b>18-20 (Exceptional)</b>	<b>14-17 (Good)</b>	<b>0-13 (Not There Yet)</b>
<p><b>Film Summary Including Character &amp; Psychological Issue(s)</b></p> <p><b>(20 POINTS)</b></p>	<p>Includes detailed plot points, relying on the BEST, most compelling plot elements.</p> <p>Clear communication of selected character &amp; psychological challenge. Fluid &amp; error free.</p>	<p>Includes MOST major plot points, relying on SOME quality plot elements.</p> <p>May lack some clarity &amp; fluidity in communication of character &amp; psychological challenge May have some errors.</p>	<p>Lacks MOST major plot elements.</p> <p>LACKS clarity/fluidity in communication of selected character &amp; psychological challenge.</p> <p>Errors get in way of understanding.</p>
<p><b>Article Summary (Pertaining to Psychological Issue)</b></p> <p><b>(20 POINTS)</b></p>	<p>Includes detailed summary points, relying on the BEST, most compelling Psychology elements.</p> <p>Clear communication of psychological issue/challenge.</p> <p>Fluid &amp; error free.</p>	<p>Includes MOST major summary points, relying on SOME quality Psychology elements.</p> <p>May lack some clarity/fluidity in communication of psychological issue/challenge.</p> <p>May have some errors.</p>	<p>Lacks MOST major summary points and/or Psychology elements.</p> <p>LACKS clarity/fluidity in communication of selected psychological issue/challenge.</p> <p>Errors get in way of understanding.</p>
<p><b>Character Analysis (Employing Concepts &amp; Understanding Drawn From Our Course)</b></p> <p><b>(40 POINTS)</b></p>	<p>Includes detailed analysis, relying on course content, terminology, understanding &amp; application, using BEST, most pertinent elements.</p> <p>Clear communication of WHY/HOW the course &amp; article content apply to character's psychological issue/challenge. Fluid &amp; error free.</p>	<p>Includes detailed analysis, relying on SOME course content, terminology, understanding &amp; application, as well as SOME of the most pertinent elements.</p> <p>May lack some clarity/fluidity in communication of WHY/HOW the course &amp; article content apply to character's psychological issue/challenge. Fluid &amp; error free.</p>	<p>LACKS detailed analysis with only skeletal treatment of course content, terminology, understanding &amp; application.</p> <p>LACKS clarity, support &amp; explanation touching upon WHY/HOW the course &amp; article content apply to character's psychological issue/challenge.</p>

### **GALLERY SLIDE SHOW (20 points):**

**Synthesizing Your Analysis Into Its Essence for a Browsing Audience (around 5 Slides or so)**