Activity: Discovering Influences

An important part of studying film is discovering artists and filmmakers who make an impression on you. Most filmmakers are influenced by other films, filmmakers and filmmaking traditions. The film journal is a great place for you to consider and reflect upon films, filmmakers, scenes or techniques that really speak to you. These could be used later to guide your own production work, or help students to develop your own sense of style. You should have a substantial list of influences that you can then use to inspire your production work and guide you in your choice of topics for further study.

Therefore, I am requiring you to view at least one feature-length or short film per week. These can be from any genre but should be guided by works that draw your attention and can benefit you in this class.

For each entry, record the following: date screened, title, year, country of origin, director(s), screenwriter(s), genre, logline, run time.

Then, record one aspect that you found compelling: an idea from each film that you could use in the IB Film Portfolio, class projects, or your own personal project. Once you have done this, do further research (including biography, relationships to other films, technical commentary, and so on) to give you a better understanding of this influence. Include screengrabs and time code where relevant. Each entry should be one page and completed in your composition book.

We will have a classroom Wall of Movies where you will share your awesome discovery(ies)! Each member in class will have to share ONE sequence from a movie to present to the class. Be ready to explain how this clip best represents the compelling idea you discovered. The clip must be appropriate for class and must be around three minutes or less. I will be maintaining a record of when you present; this will be reflected as a grade in the fourth nine weeks.

Summary of requirements for each journal entry
- date screened, title, year, country of origin, director(s), screenwriter(s), genre, logline, run time
- describe an idea from the film that you could use (see Film Elements on reverse)
- further research to help you understand this idea

START DATE: _____
END DATE: _____
**Film Elements**
According to the IB, film elements may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Cinematography (such as colour, composition, exposure, framing, focus scale, movement, shot type, and so on)

- Critical response and reception

- Editing (such as continuity, cut, dissolve, match, montage, pace, transition, and so on)

- Filmmakers’ influences, intentions and vision

- Genre, codes and conventions

- *Mise-en-scène* (such as acting and figure behaviour, art direction, costume and make-up, décor, lighting, set and setting, space, and so on)

- Motifs, symbols and themes

- Narrative structure

- Sound (such as dialogue, sound editing, sound effects and foley, soundtrack and music or score, diegetic and non-diegetic, and so on)