

STUDENT WORKSHEET: HIGH SCHOOL CRITICAL VIEWING

After viewing a film or film clip, please answer the following questions about what you have just seen. This will help you to think about the five key media literacy concepts: medium, author, content, audience and purpose. Make sure to give examples, share your opinions, and say more than just yes or no!

Medium: All Media Messages Are Constructed.

1. What type of film is this (e.g., fiction, documentary, animation, PSA)?

2. What other types of films in this style have you seen?

3. How do you know what type of film it is? What tools were used (e.g., acting, editing, lighting, music etc.)?

4. What is successful about this style of filmmaking? Why? Is there anything that you don't like about this style of filmmaking? Why?

5. Does the film remind you of other things you've seen? In what ways?

Author: All Media Messages Are Constructed by Someone.

1. Who created this film?

2. What choices did the filmmaker(s) make to communicate his or her message?

3. Do you think the filmmaker(s) were influenced by other people (e.g., funders, investors, corporate sponsor, public opinion, trends, studios)?

4. What do you know about the filmmaker(s) from watching the film?

Content: All Media Messages Have a Point of View.

1. What is the point or overall message of the film?

2. Do you think the film is objective? Or does it present a particular point of view or opinion?

3. What do you think inspired the making of this film?

4. To what extent did the content meet your expectations, given the format/author?

Audience: All Media Messages Reach an Audience.

1. Who do you think the intended audience is, and why?

2. Do you think you are the intended audience? If yes, did it succeed in engaging you? If not, why not?

3. What is your reaction to the media content and/or its message?

4. How might others perceive this message differently? Why?
