Historiography on Screen

Advanced Placement World History Film Analysis

Note: We will vote on one film to watch and analyze as a class to serve as an example. When you select your own film, please make sure that you/your parents will find its rating appropriate and that you will be able to obtain access to the film.

Your final project will include all of the following items, but how you present them is your choice. You may create a video, a Google Slide presentation, or submit as a traditional paper. Regardless, your final submission should show a progression that deepens your understanding, reflecting the expectations identified below.

**Level One: Identification**

1. Film Title

2. Relation to AP Curriculum

* Region of the world
* Theme
* Periodization

**Level Two: Summary**

Describe the plot of the film, including

* Main characters
* Setting
* Dilemmas
* Resolutions

**Level Three: Analysis of Historiography**

Use James Lowen’s secondary source analysis questions to build your understanding of the film’s historiography.

1. When was it created?
2. Who created it?
3. Why was it created? What were their ideological needs and social purposes?
4. What was/is the intended audience?
5. Did the intended audience include powerful people and institutions?
6. Who is left out? What points of view go largely unheard? How could the story differ if a different group had told it?
7. Are there problematic words or symbols that would not have been used today or by an author from another social group?
8. How is received? Is it largely forgotten? Remembered?
9. What does it leave out about the people it treats as heroes?
10. Is the presentation accurate? What do other sources—primary as well as secondary— say?

**Level Four: Conclusion**

Draw a conclusion regarding the value of this film as a way to build the public’s understanding of the historical event(s) around which it is based. Which parts of the film are most valuable? Why parts of the film are misleading, and to what extent do those inaccuracies impact the viewer’s accurate understanding of history?

Asia

1. The Last Emperor
2. Mulan
3. The Killing Fields
4. Gandhi
5. The Quiet American
6. Letters from Iwo Jima
7. Slumdog Millionaire
8. The White Countess
9. The Last Samurai
10. Empire of the Sun
11. The Last Emperor

Africa

1. Invictus
2. The Last King of Scotland
3. Hotel Rwanda
4. Blood Diamond
5. The Power of One

The Americas

1. Evita
2. Frida
3. The Motorcycle Diaries
4. Traffic
5. The Mission
6. Apocalypto

Europe

1. The Red Violin
2. The Pianist
3. Gladiator
4. Anastasia
5. Marie Antoinette
6. Elizabeth
7. Valkyrie
8. Les Miserables
9. Troy
10. Life is Beautiful
11. Name of the Rose
12. 300
13. The Imitation Game
14. Braveheart
15. The King’s Speech
16. Allied
17. Ben-Hur (any film version)
18. Pompeii
19. Mary, Queen of Scots

Oceania

1. Australia

Middle East

1. Lawrence of Arabia
2. The Mummy
3. Argo
4. Gods of Egypt