

Heart of Darkness and *Apocalypse Now* Essay Assignment “The Role of a Critic”

Name _____ Period _____

Directions: Your task for this essay assignment is to assume the role of critic and assess your perspectives on whether or not Francis Ford Coppola succeeded in using the spirit of *Heart of Darkness* for his film *Apocalypse Now*. In essence, you are using the information you gleaned while reading *Heart of Darkness*, and applying your interpretation of the novel to the movie. In order to complete this assignment, you must read the screenplay of *Apocalypse Now* and consider the changes made to the film. Coppola did indeed make many changes, and he often made them as the movie was being filmed. In order to gain a strong sense of these changes, and how Coppola allowed *Heart of Darkness* to affect him enough to drive the development of the movie, you should have a clear sense of the major themes in *Heart of Darkness* and consider how such themes were expressed in the movie. Your thesis for the criticism should be something along the lines of the following: “Francis Ford Coppola was successful in mirroring the themes of *Heart of Darkness* in his movie *Apocalypse Now*.” Of course, your thesis can argue the opposite as well.

Because this is a more creative assignment, there are certain liberties you can assume. You may write in first person, for example, and also offer personal reactions to particular scenes or characters in the movie. This said, you must still follow the conventions of essay structure, including making your thesis the final statement of your introduction, making sure that all of your supporting topic sentences support your thesis, and adhering to the “writing tips sheet.” You must also follow the AP Writing Rubric listed below. The paper must be at least two, but no longer than three double-spaced pages. You must use the MLA heading and style in your essay.

Dates

- The rough draft for this assignment is due _____.
- Peer editing will be conducted in class.
- Final copies are due _____.

Scoring Rubric

Overall Impression=

Understanding of the Text=

Organization and Development=

Use of Sentences=

Word Choice=

Grammar and Usage=

Total x 2=

Comments