



# Kittatinny Regional High School

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## Literary Analysis of Film Summer Assignment 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

### The Task:

Writers use words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs to create meaning for plot, character and theme. The style in which the words are put together provides a greater artistic depth for a deeper and more resonant understanding of the written story. Films or movies are no different. Without words to create artistry, directors (akin to an author) utilize the visual and audio to communicate meaning about plot, character and theme. The main focus of *Literary Analysis of Film* is learning and understanding the syntax of film, or knowing the elements and tools filmmakers use to communicate ideas. For those students enrolling in *Literary Analysis of Film* the summer assignment is viewing the film **Forrest Gump**. When watching the film try to go beyond a passive view, become active in understanding how the film is communicating ideas through image and sound. Jot down notes if you need to do so.

### The Assignment:

Write a reaction essay that explains how the filmmakers of **Forrest Gump** communicated ideas about plot, character and theme using images and sound. Use the following format:

#### Paragraph One:

General introduction that introduces the movie with a brief synopsis, culminating in your thesis that states you are viewing the film for its visual and audio elements.

#### Paragraph Two:

Focus on what you **see**. How do the images (settings, costumes, actions, acting, objects, etc.) communicate ideas about plot, character and theme? Try to be as specific as possible with examples from the film.

#### Paragraph Three:

Focus on what you **hear**. How does the sound (how the actors speak/dialogue, background music, popular music, sound effects, any unusual sound mixtures, etc.) communicate ideas about the plot, character and theme? Try to be as specific as possible with examples from the film.

#### Paragraph Four:

Conclusion. Finish your ideas, concluding with your personal assessment of the film. What did you like or dislike about the film? Attempt to define the genre (category) of the film. **Forrest Gump** won several Oscars including Best Picture, Director and Actor. Is this film a classic that will be remembered for generations? Explain.

Use the following link for IMDb.com. This is a website we will use for important production information about movies and the film industry.

**Forrest Gump** link: [http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/?ref=mv\\_sr\\_1](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0109830/?ref=mv_sr_1)

*Have an enjoyable and "well-read" summer!*

Chris Tryde  
Instructor of English

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