

Summer Homework: Film Presentation

Due: First Week Back to School

Format: 5–6 Slide Presentation (Google Slides, PowerPoint or PDF)

Audience: Your classmates and teacher — design it to be informative, visual and engaging.

Overview:

You have two options for this project. Choose the one that excites you most!

- Option 1: Choose one director's work — someone whose films have a distinct visual and storytelling style (an auteur). Analyze how this director uses mise-en-scène and sound design to communicate meaning beyond the dialogue, across one or more of their films.

- Option 2: Choose a single film that excites you. Explore how that film uses visual and aural storytelling — including mise-en-scène and sound design — to tell its story and create meaning beyond dialogue.

What Is Mise-en-Scène?

Mise-en-scène is everything we see in the frame, including:

- Lighting
- Colour
- Props
- Setting
- Costumes
- Makeup
- Performance (acting style, movement)
- Blocking (how characters are arranged on screen)

These elements build a world, can reflect the character's emotion and guide how we interpret scenes. Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ueSh66xktkk> for examples.

Presentation Structure & Guidance

Slide 1: Introduction

- Introduce the director (if Option 1) or the film (if Option 2).
- Why did you choose this director or film?
- Briefly describe their style or summarize the film's story.

Slides 2–4: Mise-en-Scène Analysis

- Pick at least 2–3 elements of mise-en-scène.
- Explain how these elements shape the story, themes or emotional tone beyond the dialogue.
- Use examples from the director's films (Option 1) or from the single film (Option 2).
- Include images or screenshots to illustrate your points.

Slide 5: Sound Design – Be Specific!

Sound helps tell the story just as much as images.

If analyzing music, describe:

- Tempo: Fast, slow, steady?
- Instruments: Strings, piano, synth, percussion?
- Emotional tone: Joyful, eerie, tense, nostalgic?
- Key: Major (bright) or minor (dark)?
- Does the music make us feel close or distant to the characters?

Choose at least one scene and analyze:

- What sounds do you hear? (music, silence, ambient noise, sound effects)
- How do these sounds affect mood, tension or meaning?
- Does silence play a deliberate role? What does it add?

Slide 6 (Optional): Personal Reflection or Key Scene Breakdown

- Reflect on how the mise-en-scène and sound impacted your experience of the film(s).
- Or choose a key scene and analyze how visual and sound elements work together to tell the story.

Tips for a Great Presentation:

- Use clear, focused text and bullet points.
- Include images or stills to support your analysis.
- Share your own ideas and interpretations.
- Be ready to explain your slides in class.

Learning Goals:

- Understand how films communicate visually and sonically.
- Develop skills in film analysis and creative presentation.
- Think like a filmmaker or critic.