Movie Review (Persuasive Writing Unit) 60 Points
Senior Composition DUE:

You are to select a movie that you have seen recently and compose a strongly biased review. Choose a film which you can watch while taking thorough prewriting notes, at home or at the movie theater! If you choose a movie you’ve already seen, that’s fine; but you must rewatch it with a critical eye while taking prewriting notes.

Adhere to all of the classroom lessons and teachings on strong evaluative compositions. We will frequently practice our own observations with in-class sample reviews and films.

Remember to use paragraphing when changing between “categories” of focus. (Total length: 2 complete pages, double-spaced, standard font.)

Be creative with adjectives and expressive language. Use a thesaurus to describe the characters and other components in clever new ways.

Be convincing, and “make the sale” to your reader whether you want them to see the movie or not. Know your audience; they have not seen the movie yet, but might consider it. Your review could make the difference!

**\*Refrain from R-rated movies which may present inappropriate material for class. You are not encouraged to see films for class which have inappropriate content.**

**Prewriting**

**While watching your movie, take notes on the following components:**

Directing (how the director uses the camera, and transitions from shot to shot)

Acting (cite specific examples of individual effective performances)

Writing, dialogue

Plot (Conflict; twists and surprises in the story)

Audience response (specific moments)

Literary elements: Tone, humor, theme, mood

Sound effects and Music

Style and design (sets and scenery, lighting, effects, costumes and makeup)

**Possible Movie Review Outline**

Opening: a one-sentence summary of the film’s main qualities

Important background knowledge (i.e. non-fiction or historical? remake? sequel? Based on a novel?)

Plot summary and description of conflict

Actors/Characters description; quality of acting

Quality of writing, dialogue; stand-out dramatic moments

Audience emotional response

How it relates to history, news, or current events; How it relates to other works by the same directors, composers, performers, etc.; How it compares/contrasts to other films of the genre

The films tone, humor, and themes

The style, design, and aesthetic (how it looks/feels)

Ending: a one-sentence summary of your opinion and what stands out in the film. Should we see it or not?

