

## New Film Presentation Project

The purpose of the New Film Presentation Project is to allow five to six students to collaborate with one another and present a second film by one of our filmmakers, bringing greater complexity to our discussion of a particular director's work. This project differs significantly from the writing assignments, as students have to generate an interpretation of the film and work together to present their analytical material orally. Like the screening reports and the analytical paper, however, students are encouraged to focus on some aspect of the film's form and technique as it generates meaning, and then to situate the film within social and cultural contexts. Specifically, I ask that students demonstrate their learning by providing a concise synopsis of the film and information regarding its background; by bringing in criticism and reviews; by analyzing clips; and by explaining the significance of the film within the context of the director's work and film studies, in general.

Although I break the project down into specific units for clarity, students are expected to organize the presentation in a way that emphasizes the group's cohesiveness. In other words, their presentation is expected to be well coordinated, even though everyone is assigned an individual job. I inform them that the best presentations have a design and a shape and that it should be clear to me that they have worked together to envision the whole. The three jobs involve 1) presenting a narrative synopsis of the film, including background information and details of film production; 2) organizing film clips of key scenes and preparing class handouts; and 3) presenting oral analyses of the film clips. Generally, three to four students work on the critical analyses, while the other jobs require only one individual. Though the group's success always depends upon their ability to work together, I do give individual grades, so that students don't feel responsible for presentation elements they can't control.



***Students "Reading" Film in English 364: David Kennedy, Andrew Moore,  
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