Title of essay/article: The Passion of Alicia Name: Alex Yeoh

Textual (Rhetorical) Analysis worksheet (BE DETAILED and **follow directions** carefully—type directly in this file)

1. What is the context of the article?

He saw a young girl being brought to watch the film “*The Passion of the Christ*”

1. What seems to be the author’s purpose?

To inform parents/guardians of young children about this movie and how it wouldn’t be a good idea to let their young children watch this film.

1. In what type of publication did this appear? Describe it. Why is this important, specifically?

It appeared in Entertainment Weekly which is an entertainment and pop culture magazine that is well respected. Because it is an entertainment magazine, Stephen King’s target audience of parents with young children planning on watching this movie would have been more likely to have read his article

1. Write a brief analysis of the author’s credentials and possible expertise or bias. If no information is available on the author online, try to take a guess based upon his or her knowledge and writing ability, which you might derive from the article.

He is a horror writer with books that include a lot of gruesome content which might bias him but also means he has a certain amount of expertise in the topic. He is strongly against censorship which also might bias him. He was a parent of three children so he would have some expertise in what young children might do.

1. Who seems to be the ***target audience***? Be specific.

Parents/guardians of young children who might be interested in showing this movie to their kids.

1. List 6 sentences/quotations that you think show and support the author’s stance. Explain *how* for each in 1-2 sentences.

“it would be worth $25 million just to show people the crucifixion The Way It Was, down to the last broken bone, gaping wound, and buzzing fly.” This shows the extent of how graphic the movie would be.

“*The Passim* is rated R: children under 17 not admitted without a parent or guardian.” The people who are in charge of deciding who shouldn’t be watching a film explicitly say that young children shouldn’t be watching this film.

“Gibson himself has said the film is probably not suitable for children under 12” The person who stands to gain the most from a large audience is advising against young children watching this film.

“The theater manager - had had the nerve to suggest to her that the level of violence in *The Passion* wouldn’t be good for children as young as hers.” Another person who would stand to gain from a larger audience pool for the film is advising against young children watching the film.

“Alicia hid her face for 15minutes ... but that left another 50 minutes of punishment. torture, cruelty, and death still to go.” How a young child acted during the lengthy scenes of violence during the movie.

“I think in Alicia’s dreams there will only be a skinless nightmare Christ with one eye swollen shut.” What a young child is likely to think of every time they think of the crucifixion after their exposure to the film.

1. Analyze the writer’s language. What is the writer’s tone? Why might he or she have chosen this tone? Is it effective? How is the writer trying to reach a specific audience through style and language choices and wording? Give 4 examples and clearly connect the answers to these questions to them in several sentences for each.

The writer’s tone starts off in a joking manner but by the end, the tone changes to a serious tone as he describes what happens in the movie. He likely chose his tone because a rant-like tone that you might find in an opinion column would turn away the readers of a magazine like entertainment weekly and the humorous start would draw in more readers.

“I saw no kids in the mob scene at the multiple advance screenings, but there were plenty at the show I attended on Sunday afternoon, most still dressed for church and clearly under 12.” He directly addresses the fact that there are a lot of kids here to watch a film that is rated for kids not younger than 17.

“[The theater manager] had the nerve to suggest to her that the level of violence in *The Passion* wouldn’t be good for children as young as hers. “I told him,” Mom said, ‘that if it gets too bloody, they can just close their eyes.’” He addresses what a parent who brings their kid to the film thought would solve the issue of the hyperviolence in the film. The very same hyperviolence that someone who is incentivized to have more people see warned about.

“Alicia hid her face for 15 minutes.... but that left another 50 minutes of punishment. torture, cruelty, and death still to go” He then brings up what the young child actually did while watching the lengthy scenes of violence. He brings up the fact that although the parent was correct in their original assessment of what the child would do, they didn’t consider that telling a child to not look at something for an extended period of time is probably not going to work out how you expected.

“I think in Alicia’s dreams there will only be a skinless nightmare Christ with one eye swollen shut.” He finishes on a sour note of what he thinks will happen to the young child after their exposure to the film. Ending on how the film has corrupted the young child and how the crucifixion will never be the same for them again.

1. Finally, how do the stance and language choices aid the author’s purpose relative to ***target audience***? Explain in detail, using three specific examples (lines, etc.) and showing the connection.

“I was interested in *The Passion* phenomenon; fascinated, even.” He attracts the attention of adults who might be interested in watching this film or another film like this.

“I saw no kids in the mob scene at the multiple advance screenings, but there were plenty at the show I attended on Sunday afternoon, most still dressed for church and clearly under 12.” He tells everyone that this is going to be specifically for the adults who might be bringing kids to this film.

“I think in Alicia’s dreams there will only be a skinless nightmare Christ with one eye swollen shut.” He tells the readers what might happen should they let their young children watch this film.