**Road trip with a friend letter**

Salam Alvera,

Remember the restaurant, over in Chicago? We should go back and visit! The last time we went, their biryani was so good that I forgot about all my problems, and I know you did too. With the spice and flavors overlapping with each layer of the dish, the delicious tender meat, and the extra-long rice covering the room with its aroma, how could we resist not going? Eating spicy food and well-balanced meals makes us feel relieved and less stressed. The endorphins and apigenin in the dish help reduce that stress and increase cognitive functions and neuron development. I figured, with exams coming up, and stress high, it would be the perfect excuse to go out and get some!

Biryani, the spicy and balanced meal, includes all components of a nutritious meal: long-grained rice, tender and spicy protein, mixed in vegetables, and yogurt. It is known for its layers of spice and intense flavor. The rice and meat absorb the red chili, turmeric powder, herbs, and caramelized onions through layering and simmering. This creates a complex blend of flavors. On top of addicting flavor, spice-induced dishes are known for improving anger, depression, and stress by producing endorphins that could benefit cognitive functions and release feel-good chemicals. This is perfect because we have both been stressed lately and love the biryani spice. The red pepper in the dish, along with many other spices, contains apigenin, improving neuron development and brain cell connectivity.

We should grab some on Saturday, the week before midterms as I know we both will be apprehensive and stressed. With exams around the corner, we both tend to stress significantly. With spicy food, the endorphins function as a pain and stress reliever. Not only that but the rich and complex flavors from the cardamon and cinnamon help enhance the spice flavor. With the strong smell and the nutty flavor of the rice, along with its appearance, the rice fills the room with its aroma, making the environment less overwhelming. With the room filled with the smell of delicious biryani, chemicals like serotonin will decrease stress, anger, and sadness. The aroma also influences the hypothalamus, affecting stress and mood through the hormonal system, benefitting us during exam week.

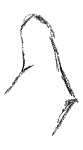
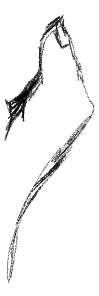
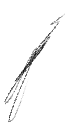
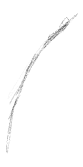
The room will be filled with flavors from ginger and garlic, brown onions, tomatoes, and spices from the enclosed biryani pot. The subtle floral aroma from the saffron, the rich and nutty scent from the rice, and the biryani masala mixed into the marinated chicken leave us waiting for our turns to enjoy the dish. The smell makes the dish mouthwatering, however, the flavors within it and the harmonious balance between the layers in the dish truly define it. Even with high-stress levels, it is impossible to think about anything other than how good the dish is. This is because of the nutty rice, the tasty, tender meat with yogurt acid, and the complex flavor mixed with the spice while marinating. The yellow-orange color from food coloring and the spices also makes the dish look colorful and joyous, helping relieve the mind of worries.

The layers in biryani and simmering ensure distribution across the entire dish. The long rice helps absorb and savor the enriched meat’s seasoning. The meal is a full course, including grains, protein, and vegetables. The balanced dish and the strong and spicy seasonings create a delicious and heartwarming experience. Cardamom, cinnamon, cumin, and many other spices aid in this. The rice and meat are layered individually, along with vegetables, and then covered tightly to produce steam. With this, the dish is left to simmer and steam. The individual components of the dish give it flavor; however, the layers and simmering process create that balanced relaxed, relieving feeling. With midterms stressing us, biryani would be the perfect alleviator.

Our road trip plan involves arriving early at the restaurant on the second morning. We want to watch them as they prepare a new batch of biryani. While observing, we will also study for our exams and savor the sweet and complex aroma surrounding the restaurant. After observing the entire process of creating the dish, we will also order some to take away and enjoy as a break and a reward for studying. We will also order a plate to enjoy the next morning before leaving for home. In conclusion, the day will entail us relaxing, watching as they prepare our favorite dish, and indulging in its delicious taste and scent.

On the first day, we will attend our Friday classes as usual. Once we get home, we will quickly pack our belongings and depart for the train station. We will then board the train and board for Chicago by 6 pm. We will aim to reach our destination around 7 or 7:30 pm. This will allow us to settle into our hotel comfortably. Afterward, we will study for our exams before heading to Anmol restaurant on Devon Avenue at 9 pm. The plan is to savor a variety of their dishes, reserving the biryani for tomorrow. Additionally, we will inquire with the owners about the possibility of visiting the restaurant the next day to observe the cooking process.

We will start the day at 10 am on the second day to prepare for our exams. After a short break, we will head to the restaurant at noon for lunch and continue our studies. After studying, we will visit the kitchen at approximately 1 pm to observe the preparation of a fresh batch of biryani, which takes approximately 2 hours due to the large batch size. We will return to our studies while the biryani is set for simmering and cooking, indulging in its aroma. Once the biryani is ready, around 4 or 5 pm, we will savor the delicious meal before returning to the hotel to rest, also ordering one to go.

On the third day, we will take it easy and sleep in. We will plan to wake up at noon, pack our things, and have the leftover biryani for breakfast. At approximately 2 pm, we will load our belongings into the car and drive back home, aiming to arrive around 4 pm, considering the traffic. Once we get home, we will feel much less stressed from studying during the road trip and enjoying the delicious biryani and our experience at the restaurant.

Your sister,

Ameera

**Statue of liberty**

## Statue of Liberty Ferry

In total, the Ferry route covers 5 miles, and the journey time is roughly twenty-five minutes in each direction. The two terminals are Whitehall Terminal in Manhattan and St. George Terminal in Staten Island, which can be found on the Northern tip of the Isle.

Every ferry provides outdoor seating, in turn, giving the best possible views of the Manhattan Skyline, as well as the [Statue of Liberty](https://thenewyorktravelguide.com/how-to-visit-the-statue-of-liberty/). When travelling from Lower Manhattan go to the right-hand side of the ferry if you want to see the Statute of Liberty, and if travelling from the Staten Island end, then sit/stand on the left side of the ferry to see the Statue of Liberty.

At its closest, it gets about half a mile away from the statue, directly in front, allowing for the best view. The ferry runs between Manhattan and Staten Island, and passengers can get a great view of the statue from the ferry.

## Statue of Liberty Torch

The original flame had seen several alternations over the years. Holes were made, and [amber](https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/amber-electrifying-beauty-from-50-million-years-ago.html) glass panels were added to the original design to illuminate the torch from within. The panes started to leak after a while and caused damage to Lady Liberty’s arm. Additional damage was done to the original torch by the Black Tom explosion, which happened in 1916 when German spies intended to destroy US munitions depot.

The new torch replicated sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi’s original design, and even added 24-carat gold leaf gilding, an element of the artist’s vision that had been too expensive to execute at the time. In the decades since, the original torch has been on display in the museum inside the statue’s pedestal.

 The original torch was crafted from copper and covered in gold leaf to enhance its visibility and splendor. This design allowed the torch to catch and reflect the sun’s rays during the day and stand out against the skyline at night.

## Spring time is Ideal

New York weather is ideal in the spring. Days are sunny and slightly breezy, without being too hot or humid. April, May, and early June will be the best outdoor months. The crowds tend to be lighter compared to the summer or late December. Overall, the entire city sites are more pleasant to explore. People are recovering from a harsh winter and happy to be outside in the nice weather. Plants are coming back to life. It’s the perfect calm before the storm of summer.

Summer is Lady Liberty’s busiest season, with more frequent ferry services leading to denser crowds and, by extension, longer lines. Spring and fall see slight dips in tourism, meaning less time spent waiting around.

The days are sunny and breezy without being too hot. Crowds are slightly lighter than summer or late December. It can be rainy at times, which may be refreshing as it may be hot as well. In summer, prices are higher, the lines are busier, the weather is hotter, and many other problems that are avoided in springtime.

Save for later-

The Statue Cruises ferry is the only way to get to the Statue of Liberty and Liberty Island. There are plenty of options that go near it, but to physically walk on Liberty Island you have to take the Statue Cruises ferry. They are the only company with permission to transport and dock on the islands. Having just one eliminates any competition and keeps prices cheap and stable.

Visiting Liberty Island is one of the most rewarding experiences of any trip to New York City. However, visitors who wish to visit the islands or enter the pedestal and visit the crown must secure [tickets](https://www.cityexperiences.com/new-york/city-cruises/statue/) through *Statue City Cruises, the ONLY AUTHORIZED ticket seller* for Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island. This is very different from how past generations once accessed the Statue of Liberty. The National Park Service strongly recommends making advanced ticket purchases. Tickets secured far enough in advance allow visitors to select their desired level of access and eliminates the need to wait in line to purchase tickets at the Battery (NYC) or Liberty State Park (NJ).

A team of engineers disassembled the torch and relocated it from the monument’s pedestal across Liberty Island to the new museum site. The torch relocation was led by the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the U.S. Department of the Interior/National Park Service. A special hydraulically stabilized transporter vehicle took the torch 470 feet across the island where it was lifted by crane into the new museum.

[Lady Liberty’s Torch: How to See It and Why It Matters – Statue of Liberty Tour](https://www.statueoflibertytour.com/blog/lady-libertys-torch-how-to-see-it-and-why-it-matters/)

Links:

[The Only Way To Reach the Statue of Liberty: The Ferry – Statue of Liberty Tour](https://www.statueoflibertytour.com/blog/the-only-way-to-reach-the-statue-of-liberty-the-ferry/)

[Statue of Liberty Tickets, Ellis Island Tickets, Statue of Liberty Tours and Ellis Island Tours – StatueOfLibertyTickets.com](https://www.statueoflibertytickets.com/?msclkid=49569dabfff01a7fcf2efb743c64c597)

[Plan Your Visit - Statue Of Liberty National Monument (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/stli/planyourvisit/index.htm)

[Why Did The Statue of Liberty Get A New Torch? - WorldAtlas](https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/why-did-the-statue-of-liberty-get-a-new-torch.html)

[Lady Liberty’s Bomb-Scarred Torch Gets a New Home in the Forthcoming Statue of Liberty Museum (artnet.com)](https://news.artnet.com/art-world/statue-of-liberty-torch-moved-ahead-of-opening-of-new-museum-1397782)

[Statue of Liberty's Original Torch Completes Move to New Home (U.S. National Park Service) (nps.gov)](https://www.nps.gov/articles/statue-of-liberty-s-original-torch-completes-move-to-new-home.htm#:~:text=In%20November%201985%2C%20a%20replica%20of%20Bartholdi%27s%20original,across%20Liberty%20Island%20to%20the%20new%20museum%20site.)

[The Best Time to Visit the Statue of Liberty on Your Trip to NYC - City Experiences™](https://www.cityexperiences.com/blog/visit-the-statue-of-liberty-nyc/#:~:text=Springtime%20is%20ideal%20weather%20time.%20The%20days%20are,for.%20However%2C%20it%20can%20be%20rainy%20at%20times.)

[The Best Time to Visit The Statue of Liberty | Go City®](https://gocity.com/en/new-york/things-to-do/best-time-to-visit-the-statue-of-liberty)

[When Is the Best Time To Visit the Statue of Liberty? – Statue of Liberty Tour](https://www.statueoflibertytour.com/blog/when-is-the-best-time-to-visit-the-statue-of-liberty/#:~:text=New%20York%20weather%20is%20ideal%20in%20the%20spring.,if%20you%E2%80%99re%20looking%20to%20guarantee%20a%20slower%20day.)

**Niagara falls**

What type of falls is horseshoe falls – parts of a block waterfall

## Block Waterfall

The underlying cliff face is usually a vertical wall. Sometimes, waterfalls in this category end up being wider than it is tall. Usually, the wider the river that’s going over the ledge, the wider the waterfall is, and hence the wider the rectangle. We also believe that some block waterfalls are taller than they are wide yet they still retain that rectangular block appearance.

Cavitation is a special type of erosion that happens at waterfalls because only at the base of waterfalls is there enough speed to produce enough bubbles close enough to rock to affect it. This is the fastest type of erosion. As the water goes over the falls, it speeds up, loses internal pressure, air escapes as bubbles or cavities. These cavities collapse when the water comes to rest, sending out shock waves to the surrounding rock, disintegrating it.

## Niagara “Horseshoe” Falls

The largest of the Niagara Falls resembles a large crest, with a height of 188 feet and crestline of approximately 2,200 feet, landing it with the Horseshoe Falls name. The water reaches on average 60mph when crash landing into the rocks below.

As waterfalls, the softer rocks on the bedrock of the floor erodes quicker than the hard, resistant rocks. As a result of this, the location became curved into the shape of a horseshoe.

The annual freezing and thawing of the Niagara River assists with the wear at the rocks under the surface, although the falls can never fully freeze due to the shear amount of kinetic energy of the falls.

## Summer Season is Ideal

Summer is peak tourist season at Niagara Falls because the warm weather allows the ferry to witness the falls up close. The longer days provide ample time for exploration, and the vibrant colors of the falls against the blue skies make for stunning photographs.

The weather is great, the flow of Niagara Falls is at its peak. This allows for a more enjoyable boat ride experience, with longer hours, and the full force of the waterfall can be fully appreciated. The warm weather makes the mist from the falls a refreshing element rather than a chilling one.

Temperate waterfalls, such as Horseshoe Falls have a greater flow during the summer. This is because water is restricted by a dam until the climate changes and allows more water flow as it transitions from Winter to Spring to Summer. As a result of this, the flow is at its peak, making the experience more enjoyable.

# Writing Sample

## Details of the Main Attraction

The plan is to go down to Horseshoe Falls and then ride Hornblower Boat Cruise down to the falls to witness the beautiful shape and crestline of the falls, created by erosion over time. We will start at the foot of Clifton Hill, upon

The journey begins at the foot of Clifton Hill, where guests board the double-deck tour boat. From there, the boat ferries past the base of the American Falls, and onto the basin of Horseshoe Falls--the dramatic passage leading you through the roiling waterfall whitewater and massive rock formations. The Niagara Falls Boat, the Voyage to the Falls approaches the American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls. The boat makes its way to the major draw, the base of the Horseshoe Falls.

“Save for later”

In 1846, the Niagara Falls Ferry Association received a charter from the State of New York, allowing it to operate a ferry service across the Niagara River. In May of 1846, the first Maid of the Mist was launched, a clumsy steamship which ferried people between carriage roads on either side of the river.

The opening of a suspension bridge over the Whirlpool Rapids, causing the ferry to lose a lot of business. As a result, the ferry began to make sight-seeing trips, taking tourists from a dock on the American side, up the river and close to the Horseshoe Falls. Later, The Hornblower operated the Canadian side of the docks to transport tourists right up to the falls.

About 12,500 years ago, “The Falls” was at the current lip of the Niagara Escarpment. From the time of the end of the last North American ice age, when the Niagara River began taking its current day path, the crest of The Falls has migrated about 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) from its original location to today’s Horseshoe Falls crest location.

When water falls over a cliff, it erodes the rocks at the base of the falls more quickly than the top of the falls. This results in the creation of a deep pool called a plunge pool and a gradually receding cliff face, giving it a curve over time. The falls continue to move backwards due to ongoing erosion, thus continuing to alter the curve of the falls over the years. As water continues to erode the river bed, the shape of the Horseshoe Falls will change, making the site a continuously evolving natural wonder.

The water that runs over the falls comes from the Great Lakes. Ninety percent of the water goes over the Horseshoe Falls. Originally, as much as 5.5. billion gallons of water per hour flowed over the falls. Canadian and American governments control the flow, where some of the water is diverted to provide power, making it the largest source of electric power in the world.

Moreover, ice blockages in the Niagara River, frost weathering and rockfalls also contribute to the curved shape of the falls. These factors, coupled with thousands of years of natural erosion, have carved out the iconic, rounded horseshoe shape that we recognize today.

The bedrock beneath Niagara Falls consists of two types of rocks: hard, resistant rocks and softer rocks. The harder rocks can withstand the force of the falling water, whereas the softer rocks get eroded at a faster rate. This process contributes to the curvature of the falls.

Nonetheless, the optimal times to visit are either in early June or late August. During this time, the weather is warm and sunny, and all the attractions are open. These periods tend to have fewer visitors compared to July or the peak of August, while still providing pleasant weather conditions.

In addition to the seasonal variations, we can also go further and say of the temperate waterfalls that are most predictable, it would be those fed by snow in the higher elevations.

That’s because water is locked up in its solid form until the climate changes and causes temperatures to warm up as it transitions from Winter to Spring to Summer (at least in North America). It’s during this warm up that the liquid water is finally free to flow and drain into the lower parts of the drainage, which eventually feed into watercourses that might feed waterfalls.

Feel the thundering roar, awesome power, and amazing mist (a protective souvenir recyclable mist poncho is provided) that come along with these natural wonders or, ride after sunset for a light-mist experience with the illumination of the Falls.

This was also a result of the ice blockages in the river.

The journey begins at the foot of Clifton Hill, where guests board the double-deck tour boat. From there, the boat ferries past the base of the American Falls, and onto the basin of Horseshoe Falls--the dramatic passage leading you through the roiling waterfall whitewater and massive rock formations.

The Niagara Falls Boat, the Voyage to the Falls approaches the American Falls and Bridal Veil Falls. The boat makes its way to the major draw, the base of the Horseshoe Falls.

The boat hovers near the base of the Horseshoe Falls for a few seconds so guests can feel the spray from the Falls and witness the powerful currents of the river.

The Voyage to the Falls boat tour in Canada is a 20-minute tour, showing the close ups of the magnificent Niagara Falls. This legendary boat tour takes place aboard a state-of-the-art catamaran, providing Canada’s only Niagara Falls boat tour experience.

**Willis tower**

## View of Willis Tower from Chicago 360’s Tilt

[Yes, you can see the Willis Tower from the Tilt, an eight-station, hydraulic window that leans out in three stages to a 30-degree angle from the building's 94th floor. The Ledge at Skydeck at the Willis Tower also provides aerial views from a slightly higher elevation of 1,353 feet above ground level](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=33d7f37eb992cfaaJmltdHM9MTcyNjUzMTIwMCZpZ3VpZD0yYzI4NDlmOS0yNTRkLTY0ZDMtMGEzOS01ZDEyMjQyYzY1MGImaW5zaWQ9NTAzNQ&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=2c2849f9-254d-64d3-0a39-5d12242c650b&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly90aGViZXR0ZXJ2YWNhdGlvbi5jb20vdGlsdC1hdC0zNjAtY2hpY2Fnby8&ntb=1).

[From the Tilt, a glass box on the 94th floor of Willis Tower, visitors can see the main structure of the tower and peer down at the city below](https://www.bing.com/ck/a?!&&p=92d4b0988ae4f2efJmltdHM9MTcyNjUzMTIwMCZpZ3VpZD0yYzI4NDlmOS0yNTRkLTY0ZDMtMGEzOS01ZDEyMjQyYzY1MGImaW5zaWQ9NTAzMQ&ptn=3&ver=2&hsh=3&fclid=2c2849f9-254d-64d3-0a39-5d12242c650b&u=a1aHR0cHM6Ly9uZXdhdGxhcy5jb20vYXJjaGl0ZWN0dXJlL3dpbGxpcy10b3dlci1zb20tdmlld2luZy1wb2ludC8&ntb=1). When darkness falls upon the city, the dominance and stature of the Willis Tower on the Chicago skyline becomes even more enchanting, especially at night. The best views of Willis Tower from Chicago 360 occur 30-45 minutes prior to sunset. At night, the sparkling lights of the skyline illuminate the building which also shows interesting color changes of the antennas.

With Willis Tower being only a few distance away from Chicago 360, the Tilt allows for the perfect view of the building as it isn’t too far in the distance and isn’t too close either. As a result, the building’s entire structure is clear to the eye and hard to miss due to its iconic design.

## Willis Tower’s Antenna

2 television antennas were added to the structure, increasing its total height to 1,707 feet. The western antenna was later extended, bringing the overall height to 1,729 feet. The tower itself is 1450 feet (442m) tall by roof height and architectural height. It is also topped with 2 antennas and spires.

With the antennas included in its height, the Willis tower would have remained significantly closer to being the tallest building in the United States. However, because the antennas themselves are not considered to be part of the building’s structure, the building’s architectural height is lower than the building’s height itself.

The Willis Tower, with a height of 1450 feet is often compared to the World Trade Center, with a height of 1350 feet. However, the World Trade Center has a spire on top of it, bringing the height of the building to almost 1800 feet. The 400 feet spire is added onto its height, allowing it to exceed Willis Tower’s height. If the Willis Tower antennas had counted towards the building’s height, the 2 buildings would be a mere 50 feet apart in height. However, if the spire of the World Trade Center did not count towards its height, Willis Tower would be considered the tallest architectural building in the United States.

## Sunset During Fall is Best

It is best to visit Chicago 360 during the Fall. After summer, the exhibition is less busy, allowing for easy and quick access to the Tilt ride. As a result of this, prices are also lower and Chicago 360 itself is less busy. In specifics, the best time to see Willis Tower from Chicago 360 is during sunset, as this is when the antennas are most visible, due to the changes in color. Chicago 360 is usually busy during sunset times, which makes Fall perfect for its viewing, as the lines may be busy, but won’t be as busy as it could be. Due to the high altitude, the floor tends to reach cold temperatures. Visiting at sunset during Fall will ensure a warm experience with the best views and will also result in the best chances of the ride being open. Chicago 360 tends to be closed with specific weather conditions, including high winds, heavy rain, or lightning

## Save for later

The Tilt features the 94th Floor, the magnificent 360° Skyline and the vast expanse of Lake Michigan. It features incredible views, extending beyond state borders, allowing you to see four states, including Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan.

 The 360 Chicago Observation Deck and Tilt ride offer breathtaking views of Chicago's skyline from around 1,500 feet above Michigan Avenue. The ride leans out three different times to a 30-degree angle, allowing for beautiful views of the city below. The panoramic views of Lake Michigan and the Chicago skyline are breathtaking.

As the Tilt inches over the edge, the cityscape unfolds beneath you, creating a unique perspective of Chicago's iconic skyline. The Tilt allows for views from Navy Pier and Lake Michigan to downtown Chicago, highlighting traffic and spectacular views of buildings. The vastness of Chicago is highlighted by the Tilt and the height at which it stands. The 30 degree angle also allows for the perfect view underneath the building, which can’t be seen on the observation deck.

The skyline today is an amalgamation of more than a century of various architectural styles, building materials, attainable heights, and sustainability efforts. Memorable buildings, such as Willis tower, Navy Pier, and Tribune Tower showcase the embodiment of Chicago.

The John Hancock Center and Willis Tower feature Chicago’s incredible skyscrapers and it is hard to imagine Chicago’s skyline without some of Chicago’s biggest and tallest buildings.

The city of Chicago has been a laboratory for architectural innovation and experimentation for a long time now. Known as [the skyscraper’s](https://www.arch2o.com/?s=skyscraper)birthplace and home to one of the world’s most spectacular and significant skylines, the Chicago skyline. [Chicago](https://en.wikivoyage.org/wiki/Chicago)'s skyline is one of the world's tallest and easily ranks among its most magnificent. It boasts several of the tallest buildings in the Western Hemisphere, including the massive Sears Tower, which was for much of the 20th century the tallest building in the world, and remains right near the top of such lists.

It’s important to check the weather before planning your visit to 360 Chicago. The observation deck may be closed due to weather conditions such as high winds, heavy rain, or lightning. If you’re planning to visit during the winter months, it’s recommended to check the weather forecast and dress warmly as it can get quite cold on the observation deck.

To make the most of your visit to 360 Chicago, it’s best to plan your trip during the off-peak hours. The peak season for 360 Chicago is from May to September, and during this time, the lines can be long, and the observation deck can be crowded. The best times to visit are early morning or evening on weekdays, as there are fewer visitors during these times.

Visiting 360 Chicago during the daytime offers a panoramic view of the city’s skyline, Lake Michigan, and the surrounding area. Visitors can witness the city’s vibrant neighborhoods, gorgeous sunsets, and glittering nights during the nighttime. The Observation Deck paints a breathtaking panorama from 1,000 feet above the ground, and on a clear day, visitors can catch a glimpse of four states dancing on the horizon.

According to the search results, the best time to visit the 360 Chicago Observation Deck is during sunset. This is the time when visitors can capture great pictures of the city’s skyline as the sun sets in the background.

**Biryani research**

## Rice and Meat

The meat is marinated before being cooked with the most common marinade being yogurt-spiced based. The acid in the yogurt helps to tenderize the meat. The layers of spices give biryani its complex flavor, which can be whole or ground, or individual or a spice mix (such as [garam masala](https://www.thespruceeats.com/what-is-garam-masala-995690)). Herbs and seeds may also be a part of the dish, often topped with [caramelized onion](https://www.thespruceeats.com/how-to-caramelize-onions-996202), dried or fresh fruit, nuts, and fresh herbs.

The meat is marinated with red chili powder, saffron, turmeric powder, coriander powder, and typically biryani masala, along with other spices that give the meat a rich and aromatic flavor. Biryani masala is a spice mix typically containing cumin, coriander, cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and pepper. Normally, Sindhi biryani is made using biryani masala with the flavor of ginger garlic, brown onion, tomatoes, and yogurt.

Basmati rice has a strong, fragrant odor and tends to double in size after being cooked, Basmati rice has a distinct appearance that is notable for the impressive length of the grains. It separates easily when cooked because of the grain's low starch content and has a floral, spicy, and nutty flavor that is more intense than any other rice.

Spicy foods increase the creation of feel-good chemicals like serotonin, which aid in the reduction of stress, anger, and sadness. Spicy, warming meals may improve your mood by increasing circulation and causing your brain to produce endorphins. Spicy foods may help you think more clearly. Adding spice to food may boost cognitive function. Apigenin, a naturally occurring flavonoid found in red pepper, improves neuron development and brain cell connections.

Endorphins are hormones that are released when your body feels pain or stress. They are produced in your brain and act as messengers in your body. Endorphins are created to help relieve pain, reduce stress, and improve mood.

## Combination of Rice and Meat

The spices, such as cardamom, cinnamon, and cloves, infuse the rice and meat with a rich, aromatic taste. The tender meat, whether chicken, lamb, or beef, adds depth and succulence to the biryani.

Layering is key to a good biryani. Alternating layers of rice, marinated meat, and saffron-infused milk for color is best. Layering also allows for flavor and spice control by distributing its absorbance into the rice, making the dish well-balanced and flavorful at the same time.

The layered biryani is then sealed and simmered over low heat until the flavors mingle, and rice absorbs in all the protein juices, resulting in a rich and impressively flavorful meal. Steam is used to help circulate through the layers of rice and combine the flavors, resulting in a well-balanced combination.

Simmering is a gentle cooking method where liquids are heated to below boiling. This method creates a soft, steady movement. It allows flavors to meld without the risk of burning or overcooking. The meat is tenderized through simmering, and the flavor is enhanced, and distributed throughout all layers of the dish.

## Flavorful Visit

The combination of fragrant basmati rice, aromatic spices, tender meat, and caramelized onions creates unique flavor combinations that are both tantalizing and unforgettable. Biryani is known for its rich and complex flavors and the skillful blending of various ingredients. The taste exploration begins with the perfectly cooked basmati rice, infused with spices like cardamom, cinnamon, and cloves, giving it a delightful aroma. The tender meat, whether chicken, lamb, or beef, is marinated in a mixture of yogurt and spices, adding a tangy and savory element. The caramelized onions add a touch of sweetness and depth of flavor. The result is a harmonious balance of flavors that will leave your taste buds craving more.

Biryani, the aromatic and flavorsome rice dish hailing from the Indian subcontinent, embodies culinary delight. The fusion of spices, meat, rice, and sometimes vegetables, creates a harmony of flavors that tantalizes the taste buds and leaves you craving more.

Biryani tastes like a symphony of flavors. It is a perfect blend of aromatic spices, fragrant rice, tender meat, and sometimes vegetables and is generally mildly spiced, rich, and bursting with savory flavors.

Biryani is known for its complex and well-balanced taste. The layers of flavors come from carefully selected spices, such as cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, cumin, coriander, and more. These spices blend perfectly, creating a spicy yet not overwhelming taste experience. The rice in biryani is often infused with saffron, giving it a subtle floral aroma and a golden hue.

Biryani stands out due to its perfect balance of flavors, the intricate spice blend, and the method of cooking that allows all the ingredients to come together harmoniously. Each bite is a burst of flavors that are hard to replicate.

## Invite Friend

Salam! Remember the restaurant, over in Chicago? We should go back and visit! The last time we went, their biryani was so good that I forgot about all my problems, and I know you did too. With the spice and flavors overlapping with each layer of the dish, the delicious tender meat, and the extra-long rice covering the room with its aroma, how could we resist not going? Eating spicy food and well-balanced meals makes us feel relieved and less stressed. The endorphins and apigenin in the dish help reduce that stress and increase cognitive functions and neuron development; I figured, with exams and stress high, it would be the perfect excuse to go out and get some!

Salam! Remember that restaurant we went to, over in Chicago? Let's go back and visit. I’ve been super stressed lately and have been craving biryani. It’s been so long since we had some! The spiciness of the dish, mixed perfectly in by the layers, makes it impossible for us to resist. With the delicious, spicy, tender meat and the extra-long basmati rice filling the room with its aromatic smell, how could we resist not going? We both love the dish's spiciness and the perfect balance, always filling our stomachs until we can’t anymore. Plus, I know that biryani has always been our way of destressing, and with exams coming up, it seems like the perfect excuse to get some.

## Why Location

Biryani, the spicy and balanced meal, includes all components of a nutritious meal: long-grained rice, tender and spicy protein, mixed in vegetables, and yogurt. It’s known for its layers of spice and intense flavor. The rice and meat absorb the red chili powder, turmeric powder, herbs, and caramelized onions through layering and simmering, creating a complex blend of flavors. On top of addicting flavor, spice-induced dishes are known for improving anger, depression, and stress by producing endorphins that could benefit cognitive functions. This is perfect, as I know we’re both stressed lately, and we love the spice in biryani. The red pepper in the dish, along with many other spices, contains apigenin, improving neuron development and brain cell connectivity.

We’ve both been quite stressed recently, and I know spicy food has always been our go-to for solving that issue. What better way to destress and enjoy good food than going out for some biryani? The spice from the dish always cheers us up, giving us extra energy and making us feel better because of serotonin and the extra endorphin through circulation. With school starting up, I figured it would be best to grab some dinner, as it would help reduce our stress levels and boost our cognitive functions through apigenin. The spices mixed in with the chicken and the long, aromatic rice always end with the perfect combination of spice and flavor balance.

## Best Time

Let's grab some on Saturday, the week before midterms as I know we both will be apprehensive and stressed. With the exams right around the corner, we both tend to significantly stress and with spicy food, the endorphins act as a pain and stress reliever. Not only that but the rich and complex flavors from the cardamon and cinnamon help enhance the spice flavor. With the strong smell and the nutty flavor of the rice, along with its appearance, the rice fills the room with its aroma, making the environment less overwhelming. Along with the rice, the yogurt acid and spice marinated, tender, and complex flavorful meat make it impossible to think about anything other than how good it tastes.

## Vivid Image

The room will be filled with several combinations of flavors, from the red chili, turmeric, and coriander powders to the smell of caramelized onions, along with steam from the enclosed biryani pot. The subtle floral scent from the saffron and the rich and nutty aroma from the rice and the biryani masala mixed into the marinated chicken leave us waiting for our turns to enjoy the dish. The smell makes the dish mouthwatering, however, the flavors within it and the harmonious balance between the layers in the dish truly define it. The yellow-orange color from food coloring and the mixing of spices leave the dish colorful and joyous, helping relieve the mind from worries and focus on the taste.

## Why Attraction

The layers in biryani and simmering ensure distribution across the entire dish. The long rice helps absorb and savor the enriched meat’s seasoning. The meal is full-course, including grains, protein, and vegetables. The balanced dish and the strong and spicy seasonings create a delicious and heartwarming experience. Cardamom, cinnamon, cumin, and many other spices aid in this. The rice and meat are layered individually, along with vegetables, and then covered tightly to produce steam. With this, the dish is left to simmer and blended. The individual components of the dish give it flavor; however, the layers and simmering process create that balanced relaxed, relieving feeling. With midterms stressing us, biryani would be the perfect alleviator.

## Activities

The road trip entails us arriving early at the restaurant on the second morning, ensuring that we can watch as they prepare a new batch of biryani. While watching, we’ll also study for our exams and divulge into the sweet and complex aroma, surrounding the restaurant. The plan is also to get permission to be in the kitchen to see how they make their version of biryani so delicious. After watching the entire process of creating the dish, we’ll order some to grab and enjoy as we continue studying. We’ll also order a plate to go, ensuring we can enjoy it in the morning and the next day before returning home.

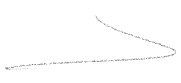
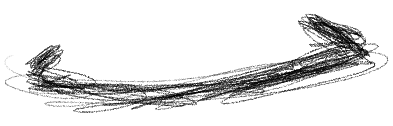
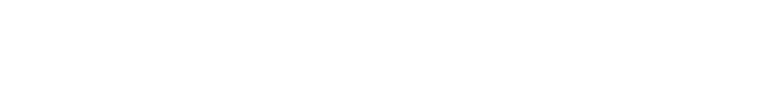
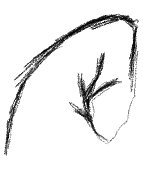
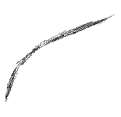
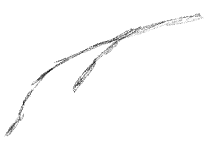
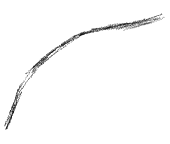
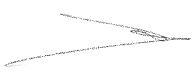
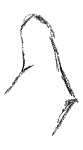
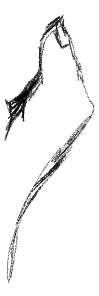
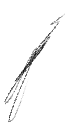
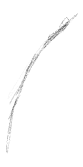
## Day 1

We will attend our Friday class as usual. Once we get home, we will quickly pack our belongings and depart for Chicago by 6 pm. We aim to reach our destination around 7 or 7:30 pm, allowing us to settle into our hotel comfortably. Afterward, we'll study for our exams before heading to Anmol restaurant on Devon Avenue at 9 pm. The plan is to savor a variety of their dishes, reserving the biryani for tomorrow. Additionally, we will inquire with the owners about the possibility of visiting the restaurant the next day to observe the cooking process.

## Day 2

We will arrive at 10 am on the second day to prepare for our exams. After a short break, we will head to the restaurant at noon for lunch and continue our studies. At 1 pm, we will visit the kitchen to observe the preparation of a fresh batch of biryani, which takes approximately 2 hours due to the large batch size. While the biryani is cooking, we will return to our studies. Once the biryani is ready, around 4 or 5 pm, we will savor the delicious meal before returning to the hotel to rest, also ordering one to go.

## Day 3

On the third day, we will take it easy and sleep in. We plan to wake up at noon, pack our things, and have the leftover biryani for breakfast. At 2 pm, we will load our belongings into the car and drive back home, aiming to arrive around 4 pm, considering the traffic. Once we get home, we will feel much less stressed from studying during the road trip and enjoying the delicious biryani and our experience at the restaurant.

## Save for Later

Anmol features several Pakistani and Indian dishes, ranging from fried samosas and pakoras to authentic biryani and nihari. Anmol specializes in meat and vegetable meals, including varieties of their menu with either or. The menu consists of vegetable entrees, chicken, mutton, beef, seafood, and many more.

Anmol’s menu consists of rice entrees, specifically vegetable biryani, mutton biryani, frontier rice, and chicken biryani. The 4 dishes are generally spice-induced, having rice as the base, and are simmered with a rich flavor. The dishes are typically layered base dishes, alternating with spice and other ingredients with rice and then mixed at the end.

This aromatic type of biryani is popular in Pakistan and known for its spicy taste, fragrant rice, and delicate meat. It is made with beef and basmati rice, vegetables, and various spices.

Sindhi biryani is made using biryani masala with ginger garlic, brown onion, tomatoes, and yogurt making a perfect flavor of biryani korma. It is then layered and covered. Layering is key to a good biryani. Alternating layers of rice, marinated meat, and saffron-infused milk for color is best. Layering also allows for flavor and spice control by distributing its absorbance into the rice, making the dish well-balanced and flavorful at the same time.

*Chicken Biryani is a highly aromatic, mouth-watering staple dish that needs no introduction. Because of its endless nuanced flavors, it is perhaps the most comforting meal of Indian cuisine that has been a part of community feasts, family gatherings, and almost every Indian household for ages.*

Biryani is a layered dish with layers of rice corresponding with the layers of marinated meat/ chicken or veggies or paneer/ tofu, slow-cooked in a sealed pot. This layered and sealed utensil is then simmered over low heat until the flavors mingle and rice absorbs in all the protein juices, resulting in a rich and impressively flavorful meal.

Biryani is a complete one-pot meal requiring no accompaniment except mint *raita* [a curd-based condiment (yogurt) with vegetables, mint, and spices].

Sindhi Biryani, often considered the most traditional type of biryani, is a culinary masterpiece known for its complex flavors and use of saffron. It's a dish rich in history and tradition, and its preparation is an art form.

Anmol’s rice dishes are inspired by Pakistani and Afghani cuisine, specializing in Southern Asian dishes. There are several ways to make these dishes, however, they generally all follow the same layering technique. Using the layering technique, the flavor of these dishes and the texture, along with its presentation is enhanced, allowing steam to help circulate through the layers of rice.

Biryani masala is a spice mix typically containing cumin, coriander, cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, and pepper.

**Man at work**

# Redo

Electric-powered furnaces were more stable and less prone to causing conflagrations and explosions due to their structure.

Thousands of workers would die as a result of harsh conditions and inadequate equipment and safety precautions.

Electric-powered furnaces do not require combustion and do not produce toxic gases.

Trucks and improved machines were used as a safer alternative.

Coke ovens would also explode regularly and toxic gas emissions impacted health.

After the closure of coke ovens, electric-powered furnaces were installed for stability.

The destructive distillation process of coke harms the environment and is unstable, resulting in movements being pushed to stop its production.

Plans to use alternative, more environmentally friendly materials have been placed.

Decarbonization and non-coking coal efforts, along with alternative materials have led for a better-sustained resort.

Innovations in the steel production industry will result in a decline in coke production.

Innovations in processes and materials will result in the decline of the coking process.

Steel production process is shown.

The process of burning coal is seen as harming the environment.

Coke ovens are set at high temperatures for several hours to help thermally remove sulfur and volatile content.

During the distillation process, coal doesn’t come into contact with air, allowing layers of carbon to form through carbonization.

Coal carbonization uses the destructive distillation process.

Black tar, coal gas, and coke are produced, with toxins and chemicals that lead to the death of thousands.

Metallurgical coke is used for its chemical content and structure.

Coal is burned to remove impurities and leave the coke residue.

Air contact was prevented using water, allowing the substance to solidify and maintain back pressure.

Coke ovens were extremely unstable and prone to causing conflagrations due to the excessive heat buildup.

Coke ovens exposed workers to gasses and toxic particles that ended up making working conditions agonizing, especially with long hours and inadequate equipment.

Workers would coat the doors with a wet clay mixture to seal gas inside, causing pressure to build up, causing pressure to build up and cause explosions.

Poor construction led many of them to collapse and fail. This impacted the properties of coke.

A poorly built coke oven is shown.

Hot spots within deep coal reserves are created as coal absorbs oxygen.

Coke ovens reach temperatures over 700 degrees Celsius and are sealed shut with metal lids to prevent oxygen from entering.

Coke ovens consist of groups of ovens connected by walls in a controlled environment, where coal burns for 18-24 hours.

They are ignited using external heat sources, such as natural gas, and then the combustion system sustains the temperature

Coke ovens used sealed metal containers to contain oxygen and then consume it, controlling the spread of fire. This creates an environment of carbon layers in extreme heat.

Biomass is environmentally friendly and also easier to obtain than coal. As a result, coking production may begin to decrease to allow for sustained and environmentally friendly alternatives.

Biomass, an energy source from plants and animals is used for heat, electricity, and biofuel production.

Renewable biomass can be directly converted to change forms, releasing carbon dioxide, and is derived from the sun.

Photosynthesis allows plants to absorb the sun’s energy which is then used to create biomass which can be burned for heat or used as gas.

Plans to use alternative, more environmentally friendly materials have been placed.

The destructive distillation process of coke harms the environment and is unstable, resulting in movements being pushed to stop its production.

Innovations in the steel production industry will result in a decline in coke production.

Innovations in processes and materials will result in the coking process’ decline.

The steel production process is shown, for which coke is mainly used for.

Workers work hard while coal burns and gas is emitted.

Decarbonization and noncoking coal efforts, along with alternative materials have led for a better-sustained resort.

Mining conditions were improved through social movements for better conditions.

Water is hosed onto the trucks to prevent the ignition of coal during transportation.

Water saturates the air and sustains humidity. Water also helps release impurities in the case they do ignite.

Thousands of workers would die as a result of harsh conditions which were prevented using trucks.

Mining of coal to be used for coking is done using trucks and machines, preventing human interaction

Improvements were made to ensure safer working conditions and prevent gas and toxin emissions.

Electric-powered furnaces do not produce flames and fires, making them safer. They also conserve energy, making them better for the environment.

After the closure of coke ovens, electric-powered furnaces were installed for stability.

Electric-powered furnaces were installed to limit human interaction and control fires caused by metallurgical coal.

Unstable coke ovens were discontinued prior to the 20th century as they led to excessive gas emissions and toxins that led to catastrophic conditions for workers.

Coke ovens were known for being unstable and uncontrollable.

During destructive distillation, temperatures can reach 700 degrees Celsius. Bituminous coal burns for 18-24 hours and is used for its volatile components and low sulfur concentration.

Coke ovens are connected by common walls. Water is used to prevent air leaks by maintaining pressure.

Hot spots within deep coal reserves are created as coal absorbs oxygen.

Conveyer belts transfer coal to bins, blending with water and oil to control density and maintain humidity. Gas emission is controlled using steam aspiration and lids.

Water is sprayed to solidify coke, controlling the spread of fire, and washing the substance.

## Fire Idea

Hot spots, spontaneous fire.

Spontaneous combustion fires usually begin as "hot spots" deep within the reserve of coal. The hot spots appear when coal absorbs oxygen from the air. Heat generated by the oxidation then initiated the fire.

The fire is spread across his surroundings and fills the space with smoke. The person’s outfit also represents that they do not have the proper equipment to protect them from open flames and chemicals.

Due to the excessive emission of gas and toxins, these conditions were more extreme and resulted in thousands dying.

It is simple to prevent spontaneous combustion since oxygen is needed for it to occur. Materials subject to spontaneous combustion should be stored in **sealed metal containers** such as a safety can or rubbish bin. The container will contain oxygen at first, but the oxidation process will soon use this up and the process will stop.

While heating, the coal does not meet air, which creates an environment for the carbon layers to exist. This process of heating coal in the absence of air allows the volatile components of the coal to escape, leaving behind a residue known as coke.

## Organized

Coke oven emissions raise the risk for workers; therefore, they are supplied with special protective gear. The gear is meant to protect them from the gases emitted upon coal burning. Workers stood several feet behind the fire to remain a safe distance away. However, mining conditions were gruesome and rough, therefore, the safety precautions were not as tightly upheld as they are today.

Factory conditions were dangerous and unforgiving. Workers worked long hours with low wages and lived with barely any rights and dirty conditions. Due to the excessive emission of gas and toxins, these conditions were more extreme and resulted in thousands dying.

Spontaneous combustion fires usually begin as "hot spots" deep within the reserve of coal. The hot spots appear when coal absorbs oxygen from the air. Heat generated by the oxidation then initiated the fire.

## Character Conditions

#### Clothing

Coke oven emissions raise the risk for workers; therefore, they are supplied with special protective gear. The gear is meant to protect them from the gases emitted upon coal burning. Workers stood several feet behind the fire to remain a safe distance away. However, mining conditions were gruesome and rough, therefore, the safety precautions were not as tightly upheld as they are today.

Safety precautions include using personal protective equipment, continuous monitoring of gas levels, regular maintenance of equipment, and comprehensive training programs for employees.

Metallurgical miners were generally seen wearing half-sleeves or vests with pants. They wore loose pants that went to their ankles, preventing them from tripping. They also wore sturdy shoes or footwear to ensure that their feet remained safe and dry.

#### Skills

Factory conditions were dangerous and unforgiving. Workers worked long hours with low wages and lived with barely any rights and dirty conditions. Due to the excessive emission of gas and toxins, these conditions were more extreme and resulted in thousands dying.

Factory conditions required workers to endure long harsh hours of work near open fire. Generally, strong men who were able to withstand the harsh conditions were allowed to work here.

As the conditions in the factory are tough, workers are expected to know when and how to evade danger. This is through recognizing danger signals such as flame spreading and knowing how to control a fire and prevent explosions. Men here also needed to be physically fit to physically endure the labor they were tasked with.

## Setting

#### Surroundings

Spontaneous combustion fires usually begin as "hot spots" deep within the reserve of coal. The hot spots appear when coal absorbs oxygen from the air. The heat generated by the oxidation then initiated the fire.

The person is seen hosing the burning coal with flames near him. There are other workers near him, all working on different parts of the process, however, they are all close to the flame and under grueling conditions. The fire is spread across his surroundings and fills the space with smoke. The person’s outfit also represents that they do not have the proper equipment to protect them from open flames and chemicals.

It is simple to prevent spontaneous combustion since oxygen is needed for it to occur. Materials subject to spontaneous combustion should be stored in **sealed metal containers** such as a safety can or rubbish bin. The container will contain oxygen at first, but the oxidation process will soon use this up and the process will stop.

#### Material

Due to the high temperature inside, coal gas, coal water, and tar are separated from the coal. The gas and water then fuse with [carbon](https://www.allthescience.org/what-is-carbon.htm) and the remainder of ash. The hard residue that remains at the end of this process is commonly referred to as coke.

Black coal, or bituminous coal is cleaned and then heated in an airtight oven. Temperatures here can reach as high as 2000 degrees Fahrenheit. This melts the coal and removes impurities, leaving only carbon. Water is then used to hose the melted substance, hardening it and allowing it to be transferable. This is then used as fuel to produce steel.

Coal is typically composed of 50% hydrogen, 35% methane, 10% carbon monoxide, ethylene 5%. It also consists of sulfur, oxygen, and nitrogen. During the coking process, coal tar is created, along with benzene and lighter hydrocarbon.

#### Coke oven

Coke ovens are used as furnaces to increase the temperatures to high degrees and remove air content—a group of ovens connected by common walls and in a controlled environment. Coal is placed in the coke oven for approximately 18-24 hours to transform into coke. Metallurgical coal is used in this because of its volatile content and low sulfur. Coke ovens are heated using combustion. They are ignited using external heat sources, such as natural gas, and then the combustion system sustains the temperature. Coke is unachievable without coke ovens.

Conveyer belts transfer coal to the mixing bins and then blend it with water and oil to control density. This is then transported to the storage bunkers on the coke oven’s battery and moved on a larry car which then throws the coal into the oven. The emission of gas is then controlled using a lid and steam aspiration to draw in the gas. Luting with a wet clay mixture is also used to seal the gas inside.

## Action

#### Water

The hosing of coal is used to extract, wash, and solidify the coke for transportation. Water plays a key role in the destructive distillation process of coke. Water is sprayed onto the coal as it’s burning, helping release the impurities. It is also used to solidify the substance to make it easier to transport through barrels.

Water helps cool the remaining substance, making it easier to transport. As coke is easily ignited, water is used to saturate to air and sustain a specific humidity. This prevents the coke from igniting by preventing sparks upon contact with each other.

Water is also used to prevent air from leaking into the oven by maintaining back pressure in the collecting main. This is approximately 10 mm of water.

#### Coking and Destructive Distillation

Coal carbonization is the process by which coal is heated and volatile products (liquid and gaseous) are driven off, leaving a solid residue called coke. It involves heating coal to high temperatures either in the absence of oxygen (O2) or in a controlled quantity of O2. A gaseous by-product called coke oven gas (COG) along with ammonia (NH3), water, and sulfur compounds is also thermally removed from the coal. The coke which remains after this distillation largely consists of carbon (C), in various crystallographic forms, but also contains the thermally modified remains of different minerals in the original coal. These mineral remains, usually referred to as coke ash, do not burn and are left as a residue after the coke is burned.

While heating, the coal does not meet air, which creates an environment for the carbon layers to exist. This process of heating coal in the absence of air allows the volatile components of the coal to escape, leaving behind a residue known as coke. This is essentially carbonization. After the coal is converted into coke, the coke is then harvested and cooled. Coke is mainly condensed of carbon and is denser and purer than coal. Water is used to cool and solidify the substance.

Destructive distillation of coal is a process where organic materials, such as coal, are heated in the absence of air to break down complex molecules into simpler compounds. This occurs at high temperatures, typically above 700 degrees Celsius. During the process, volatile components are released as gases, leaving behind a solid residue known as char. The volatile products can include gases like methane, ethylene, and hydrogen, as well as liquids such as tar and oils.

The destructive distillation of coal produces coal gas, tar, and coke. Coke is made of carbon and ash and is the remaining solid residue upon cooling and condensing the heated coal.

## Overall Picture Summary

Bottom left corner

Workers are handling coal and turning it into coke. Labor intensive. Sparked labor movements demanding better working conditions, wages, and reasonable working hours, led to labor unions being formed and strikes to change the law. The bottom left corner reflects how extensive the work is and the strength needed. It also represents how people were willing to work even in danger and terrible conditions because they had to. Strong, determined, and engaged workers, represented by strong lines

The art piece represents the process of coking, turning coal into coke. Coke is a denser and purer form of coal, created by inducing high temperatures in the absence of air and then solidifying it using water. This solid substance is then transported.A painting of a factory being fired

Description automatically generated

**Neo Noir film**

Wick vs Iosef: A Neo Noir Justice

By Ameera Syed

Encounter

The encounter between Wick and Iosef embodies unforeseeable danger with lighting and chiaroscuro. The shadows in the scene play along with muted colors and reflection to foreshadow the upcoming violence and conflict. The setting itself contributes to the uneasy atmosphere- dark and desolate. The rundown, nearly abandoned gas station allows for great emphasis on their encounter and solitude. Iosef’s attire and cigarette also indicate his connection to the crime syndicate and danger. Iosef’s Russian background associates him with common stereotypes, indicating harsh tones and language to create an intimidating and ominous presence. The mood in the scene also reflects a dull and anguished tone, disrupted by loud music and surrounded by a corrupted, ominous landscape.

The scene begins with John filling his gas. Starting with a calm and casual exchange between two characters, the scene gradually builds towards a tense moment. The conflict arises when John’s desire to keep his car displeases Iosef, causing him to become envious and threaten John. Iosef’s quick temper leads him to retort in Russian, stating that everything has a price. John then snaps back to his response, angering Iosef. As a result of his resentment, Iosef murders John’s dog and steals his Mustang. The senseless killing of John’s dog marks the beginning of John’s return to violence, the violence he left for his wife. The peace he found with her and the dog is ruined by Iosef, fueling his revenge. This then forces John to return to the disturbing criminal underworld he once escaped, driving him to seek revenge for severing the last connection to her.

The noir elements introduce the central conflict as John attempts to maintain peace with Iosef, even with his reckless anger and entitled attitude. The setting itself represents the loneliness in John’s current life, representing a hurt and distressed character. The place is abandoned until Iosef’s arrival, in which John’s peace and silence are disrupted by loud music and chatter. Iosef’s attire in the scene, along with his companions creates an uneasy atmosphere, along with their cigarettes and coarse language. As Iosef approaches John, his appearance and depiction foreshadow the upcoming conflict. Iosef’s eagerness and straightforwardness in buying the car indicate his wealth, power, and connection to the underworld as well. His aggression then quickly increases upon John’s rejection, showcasing Iosef’s recklessness and entitled behavior.

Pursuit

The pursuit scene in John Wick represents the chase between John and Iosef in the Continental. The Continental is generally a neutral ground, a space symbolizing the boundary between criminals and assassins. Its usage in the pursuit is significant as it is meant to be a safe location but contains many contrary events during this scene. The setting inside the Continental also intensifies the mood, shifting from several different atmospheres.  The rooms are crowded with dancers and people enjoying the night, creating blurred backgrounds. In the hot tub room, John enters and begins firing shots, catching Iosef off guard. As John corners Iosef, the lighting highlights the contrast between them emotionally using the different shadows and homing in on their expressions. Upon realizing the consequences of his actions, Iosef quickly grabs a gun and cowardly flees, panicking and attempting to escape.

The dynamic chase builds on the central conflict as it reflects John’s calm determination against Iosef’s panic. Iosef’s cowardly escape is represented through the camera’s shaky and rapid cuts, mirroring his panic and sharpening the effect. Contrarily, John remains calm and composed, taking his time and strategically planning his movement. The red lights flash on John, creating further tension and deepening John’s determination and resolve by emphasizing the high stakes of the moment. The flickering lights also symbolize danger and emotional instability, using red specifically. The quick setting changes reflect Iosef’s panic and eagerness to flee, however, the flickering slow red lights represent John’s calmness. The weapons and the chase symbolize John’s return to the underground criminal life he was once part of, driven by revenge.

The flickering and high-contrast lighting plays a great role in the pursuit between John and Iosef. The high-contract lighting and focused camera angles heighten the alarming and uneasy environments. The sharp and quick changes with light and shadow, along with the oblique angle disorient the view, creating an imbalance and addressing the emotional turmoil. Although the environment is loud and distracts, the angles create a focused viewpoint on John’s movements, representing their importance and setting the scene for a trouble and disturbed atmosphere. The Dutch angle shot is also used to disorient the scene, creating emphasis on the feeling of fear and instability, representing Iosef’s panic. The Dutch angle and close-ups visually represent the power dynamics between the two characters, representing how different they are in the situation. John is seen collect and determined through momentary camera usage and angles. Whereas Iosef is shown panicking through quick camera movements.

Resolution

The movie finishes with the conflict ending, in which John eventually finds Iosef’s hideout, following him and shooting him. Before this, Iosef is seen agitated from the pursuit, leaving him tense. Upon John’s arrival, Iosef’s partner is shot and murdered, scaring Iosef and forcing him to crouch and panic as he plans to escape. Whilst running, his guard gets shot, causing Iosef to stammer and attempt to run towards the storage containers. Here, John catches him and then shoots him twice, once in the stomach and then the head. This marks the end of their conflict, representing John’s successful revenge on Iosef and personal justice.

As John approaches Iosef, the use of amplified sound of gunshots and footsteps enhance the scene, along with the background details such as fire and smoke. The background soundtrack plays with the sound of footsteps and gunshots, creating a haunting presence, mixed with upbeat music. The upbeat music draws attention to the scene as it differs from the rest of the movie, magnifying its effects. The amplification of Iosef’s groaning and begging, along with John’s footsteps as he corners him also complements the atmosphere, foreshadowing his death.  The wide shots and framing explore the cold and isolated setting in which the murder takes place. The wide shots center John in the middle, conveying his isolation again but representing the corruption surrounding him through his environment. John’s strength and determination are also conveyed using these shots by portraying him in a powerful stance.

The setting is represented as dark and moody, using strong shadows and empty spaces in the warehouse. It features a dirty hideout in the warehouse, messy and clustered, representing tight spaces and represents chaos. However, once Iosef flees to the bottom of the warehouse, the setting features an open, empty room and uses wide angles to represent John’s loneliness and bring attention to him as a powerful protagonist. The camera’s movement also tactically follows Wick’s movements from behind or at specified elevated angles. The cold and harsh lighting played with these angles contributes to the already edged and uneasy environment, making the action stand out more and indicating the differences between Wick and Tarasov.

Group notes

**Film Noir elements:**

**Dark cityscapes**

Dark cityscapes serve to represent everything dark and dangerous about city living. In film, they serve to represent and promote a discourse on particular social conditions of urban existence that appear to be unified. This leads to discourses concerning the lives and portrayal of personal identities and interpersonal communication within families, between friends, work colleagues, as well as fellow urban habitants, and the social relations between them.

Dark cityscapes represent social tensions resulting from corruption, betrayal, and darker aspects of human nature. Film noir focuses the corrupted side of urban life. The landscapes are used to portray the dark and unusual characteristics of the world in which the character lives in. This is shown using dimly lit alleys, foggy streets, and dilapidated buildings become characters, conveying a sense of danger and mystery.

Film noir cities are often depicted as irregular and twisting. The city scape includes dark alleys, winding streets, and claustrophobic spaces, to give a sense of entrapment and disorientation. The city's architecture, including towering skyscrapers, seedy bars, and rundown apartments, reflects the characters' struggles and moral dilemmas.

Expressionist artists of noir films often depicted urban scenes and cities as chaotic, fragmented, and oppressive. This reflected their critique of modern urban life, which they saw as dehumanizing and alienating, this was also a metaphor for the character’s psychological states.

**Flawed hero**

John Wick's relentless pursuit of revenge ultimately transforms him into a flawed anti-hero. The franchise's decision to showcase John Wick as an anti-hero rather than a traditional hero has added layers of complexity and depth to his character.

While being heroic, the character must also have a tragic flaw (also called [hamartia](https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/hamartia)) or more generally be subject to human error, and the flaw must lead to the character's downfall. On the one hand, these flaws make the character "relatable," someone with whom the audience can identify. The tragic flaw makes the tragedy more powerful because the source is *internal* to the character.

John Wick is a stoic and relentless assassin seeking vengeance for the death of his wife and the theft of his car, representing a Byronic hero, a variant of the antihero. They are usually intelligent, emotionally sensitive, introspective, and cynical men.

Byronic heroes tend to be very charismatic, but are deeply flawed individuals, who might do things that are generally thought of as socially unacceptable because they are at odds with mainstream society. A Byronic hero has his own set of beliefs and will not yield for anyone. While it might not be initially apparent, deep down, the Byronic hero is also quite selfish.

Byronic heroes have troubled pasts with mysterious personalities, usually concealed behind faces of charm and charisma. They keep to themselves and are defiant and rebellious. Many Byronic heroes suffer with extreme feelings and turmoil from past trauma.

**Femme fatal**

The femme fatale is often depicted as a seductive woman who woos and entraps the male protagonist into a dangerous trap for her own benefit. The femme fatale is often motivated by a desire for power and control, or has previous encounters/experiences with the male protagonist that drive her.

The femme fatale character we see in John Wick is Ms. Perkins, she goes after the main male protagonist John Wick, after the bounty with a large sum of money is set up.

One of the most iconic figures of Film Noir is the femme fatale, a seductive and dangerous woman who uses her sexuality to manipulate men. The femme fatale is often portrayed as a figure of temptation and betrayal, luring male protagonists into a web of deceit and violence. However, some feminist critics have argued that the femme fatale can also be seen as a subversive figure, challenging traditional gender roles and power dynamics by asserting her own agency and independence.

**Crime syndicate**

Complex of highly centralized enterprises set up for the purpose of engaging in illegal activities. Such organizations engage in offenses such as [cargo](https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/cargo) [theft](https://www.britannica.com/topic/theft), [fraud](https://www.britannica.com/topic/fraud), [robbery](https://www.britannica.com/topic/robbery), [kidnapping](https://www.britannica.com/topic/kidnapping) for ransom, and the demanding of “protection” payments. Syndicate crimes include narcotics, gangs, drug trafficking, assassins, smuggling, prostitution, theft, gambling, etc.

In John Wick, the Continental is a network of facilities and services for assassins. It serves as an organization made to supply criminals with what is needed.

**Shadow and light**

At its core, film noir is defined by its distinctive visual and thematic elements. The visual style is characterized by low-key lighting, creating high contrast between light and shadow. This [effect](https://nofilmschool.com/chiaroscuro-lighting), combined with the frequent use of oblique angles and deep focus, enhances the sense of mystery and tension. Urban settings, often depicted at night with rain-soaked streets and neon lights, are common backdrops, adding to the atmospheric mood.

Film noir is known for its distinctive visual style, often characterized by high contrast lighting and dramatic shadows. These techniques not only add to the mood of the films but also play a crucial role in depicting the urban landscapes.

In the world of film noir, [extreme contrast](https://digital-photography-school.com/7-ways-to-handle-high-contrast-scenes/) is the name of the game. Bright highlights and deep, impenetrable shadows create a visual tension that mirrors the moral complexities often explored in these films. Characters and objects are sharply defined, with the contrast emphasizing their significance within the frame.

One of the most recognizable features of film noir lighting is the use of intense, angular shadows. These shadows aren’t just decorative; they serve as metaphors, hinting at the hidden depths and secrets that lie beneath the surface of the narrative. The play of light and shadow becomes a language of its own, communicating emotions and subtext without words.

Film noir lighting isn’t just about aesthetics; it’s a storytelling tool that wields emotional influence. The interplay of light and shadow can heighten emotions, emphasizing characters’ inner turmoil, fear, or desire. The flicker of a dimly lit room or the play of light on a character’s face can convey depths of emotion that words alone might struggle to express.

Low-key lighting is all about accentuating shadows, and in the world of film noir, shadows are your allies. By using strong, focused light sources and allowing shadows to fall dramatically, you can craft a visual landscape rich in contrast. This technique not only adds depth and texture to your scenes but also heightens the sense of mystery and suspense.

**Tilted angles**

The result of a Dutch angle shot is meant to disorient the viewer, as the horizon line of the shot will not be parallel with the bottom of the camera frame (and the vertical lines will not line up with the sides of the frame). This causes the “off-ness” which you’ll notice in these shots, particularly when the angle is more pronounced.

Dutch angles use X-axis camera tilts to enhance a disorienting or uneasy feeling in a scene. By skewing the camera angle diagonally, the filmmaker can indicate that something in the scene is off-kilter, emphasize a character’s “crookedness,” or generate an unsettling feeling or sense of instability.

A Dutch angle gives viewers an uneasy feeling, like something isn’t quite right, or something ominous is looming just ahead. This type of camera shot can create a feeling of disorientation, madness, or imbalance. Dutch angles enhance tension, generate fear, and exacerbate unsteadiness.

The tilted camera shot psychological impacts viewers and is used as an oblique angle to create tension or unease. It is used sparingly to maintain effectiveness and abnormality. Dutch angles are used when trying to portray confusion and instability emotionally and mentally. Using it in control and in cases of conflict can be used to engage audiences by throwing the viewer off balance.

**Flashback**

In its classic form, the flashback is introduced when the image in the present dissolves to an image in the past, understood either as a story being told or a subjective memory. Voice over that mark's anteriority through language, often reinforces the visual and sound elements representing a return to the past. The flashback consists in the insertion of a past scene within the present flow of film narrative, interrupting that flow. Memory is one of the mental processes involved in flashback which is thus often related to the subjectivity of consciousness.

The notion of haunting, obsessive memory is an essential feature of film noir. Some flashbacks directly involve a quest for the answer to an enigma or a series of enigmas posed in the beginning of a narrative. Through a return to the past, the frame narrative may open with an event

Flashbacks are narrative devices that interrupt the chronological flow of a story to depict events that occurred in the past. They are often used to provide background information, deepen character development, and reveal motivations, enhancing the audience's understanding of the present situation. In film noir, flashbacks serve to create a sense of mystery and tension, often reflecting the fragmented nature of memory and the impact of urban environments on characters' psyches.

**Character vs. Character (own revenge or contract)**

**00:00-36:00**

**10:40-12:20 gas station scene**

**11:50-12:05 – Character**

Envious of John’s car, after establishing it isn’t for sale, Yusef threatens John in Russian at the pump. Lower ranking members are usually street-smart, immoral believes that they have larger powers than others, and can yield that power over large populations. They keep to themselves and are defiant and rebellious.

Yusef threatens John for his dog and mustang in Russian, stating everything has a price, but he retorts back.

Yusef threatens John Wick’s dog at the gas station in Russian, after John Wick establishes his mustang isn’t for sale.

Yusef is envious of John Wick’s car. When he sees the puppy, he begins speaking Russian to threaten John.

**11:25-11:50- Action**

Yusef becomes angry and cold when he is told John Wick’s car is not for sale.

Yusef makes small talk regarding John’s mustang, showing interest and is annoyed when denied purchasing the vehicle.

Yusef inquires to John about his Mustang, showing interest in purchasing it, as he touches the car and blows cigarette smoke.

Yusaf notices John’s mustang and makes an offer on it. After John Wick tells him it isn’t for sale, he becomes cold and threatening. Bosses will act as though they have or deserve control over everyone around them. they rise to power with toughness and cruelty while showing an ambitious desire for success and recognition

**10:40-12:20 – setting**

Gas station, both monotonic colors and background, cigarette, specific type of mustang may have significance, dull mood.

Car, puppy, gas pump, cigarette, dark hooded jacket, shadows.

The Russian men pull in playing loud music from their flashy car. The scene is in a dark setting, and Yusef’s cigarette smoke fills the frame. Both Yusef and John are wearing dark leather jackets.

**Noir Elements:**

Damaged, distressed, or anguished men who have a resistance to socializing with others because they’re haunted by the aftermath of traumatic events

**36:00-1:10:00**

**50:20-52:00 John Wick chasing Yusef through the party**

**51:10-51:45**

**Action:**

Seeing John, Yusef grabs a gun and towel and uses a girl as cover to run away, escaping to different rooms in the Continental. Panicking, he alerts guards, and frantically weaves through people while John calmly walks towards him.

**Character:**

Yusef was clearly caught off guard when John Wick enters and he bolts, still in his bathing suit. Yusef is cowardly running away and even uses other people as shields for himself after saying he wasn’t scared of the bogeyman just a few minutes prior.

Yusef’s eyes are wide, and he is frantically trying to run and escape, whilst John is following him while walking.

**Setting:**

John Wick in suit and Yusef in a towel. Club or party next door in the Continental with DJ, loud music, and flickering lights, many dancing and drinking. Dim and red lights in the hot tub area, ominous. Candles in the hot tub area, representing Yusef off guard. Bright neon colors in the club room. Various changes from shadows and dark lighting, along with usage of reds and angles. Red light used as highlight on specific footages of fights. John holds a silencer and knife while Yusef holds possibly a pistol. Screams and loud gun shots, along with blood and shattered glass.

John Wick is dressed in a suit with an array of weapons on his person. Yusef, clearly surprised by John’s arrival, is still in his swimsuit and towel. Bright colorful lights flash and loud music blares. Many expensive pots and other objects are shattered in the fight. People in the main club dance like nothing is wrong.

Yusef in speedo with hand pistol, then covers with a towel, John in a suit, with different weapons hidden on himself. The dark and flashing lighting with the loud music and screaming set the scene, enhancing the sense of panic.

**Noir elements:**

The tilted camera shot when John enters the club psychologically impacts viewers and is used as an oblique angle to create tension or unease.

The visual style is characterized by low-key lighting, creating high contrast between light and shadow. This [effect](https://nofilmschool.com/chiaroscuro-lighting), combined with the frequent use of oblique angles and deep focus, enhances the sense of mystery and tension.

The flicker of a dimly lit room or the play of light on a character’s face can convey depths of emotion that words alone might struggle to express.

Bright highlights and deep, impenetrable shadows create a visual tension

**1:15:16 – 1:16:40**

**Shot at 1:16:19**

Yusef is surprised and crouches, trying to escape as John blows things up. Yusef watches as a security guard is shot and then runs for it, in between 2 containers, John Wick shoots Yusef in the stomach. He is then shot in the head and killed.

**Character:**

Yusef is agitated seeing his partner goofing off. As his partner is shot, Yusef is caught off guard and gets down. Afraid, Yusef huddles and is pulled to escape. Seeing his guard shot, Yusef panics, scurrying away. He runs full speed, attempting to hide in the storage containers and is met with John’s gun.

**Action:**

One by one John’s men snipe down men as Yusef runs. Parallel to the party scene Yusef frantically runs away in fear as John Wick trails behind him calmly. John shoots Yusef once just to hurt him, not kill him. As Yusef tries to explain himself, John walks up to him and kills him.

**Setting:**

Dirty hideout, snipers are positioned in a construction site. Cars are blown up. Warehouse, fire. Dark light and shadows, monotonic colors. Semi messy room with scattered food. Storage containers.

**Noir Elements:**

The interplay of light and shadow can heighten emotions, emphasizing characters’ inner turmoil, fear, or desire. The play of light on a character’s face can convey depths of emotion that words alone might struggle to express.

The landscapes are used to portray the dark and unusual characteristics of the world in which the character lives in.

Byronic heroes tend to be very charismatic, but are deeply flawed individuals, who might do things that are generally thought of as socially unacceptable because they are at odds with mainstream society.

Typically, they do not always make choices that are not moral or that have questionable motivations but for purposes that could be justified.

The interplay of light and shadow can heighten emotions, emphasizing characters’ inner turmoil, fear, or desire. The flicker of a dimly lit room or the play of light on a character’s face can convey depths of emotion that words alone might struggle to express.

Class collaborative

**Dark cityscapes**

the harsh realities of violent death amidst the menacing and shadow-filled urban street has been captured in the late afternoon sun. Darkness falls, poised for an imminent clash, a showdown danger sneaks up on when and where it is expected and unexpected

contrast to the romantic grand backdrop of tapping into the collective power of the human mind dark cityscape not the source of human innocence and goodness because there is no manifestation of divine power

each scene piece casts light on some of the bleakest aspects of urban life such as problem of violent crime, mostly gang-related. Dark city areas are prone to battle such adversities, depending on neighborhood and its demographics.

depicted as irregular and twisting winding streets, and claustrophobic spaces, to give a sense of entrapment and disorientation seedy bars and rundown apartments reflects the characters' struggles with fitting into the extreme contrast of traditional society

dystopian atmosphere with rain-soaked streets, towering neon advertisements, and dark skies create mirror the moral ambiguity of the protagonist These immerse the audience in a world where danger lurks around every corner

a reflection of the morally ambiguous world the characters inhabit. dimly lit alleys, foggy streets, and neglected buildings become characters in their own right, conveying a sense of danger and mystery adds to the atmospheric mood to characters who often feel lost, isolated, and disconnected from the world around them

**Flawed hero**

possess a crippling flaw are anti-heroes with a shady past. Typically, they do not always make choices that are not moral or that have questionable motivations but for purposes that could be justified. but they evolve into someone who makes significant sacrifices for the greater good, offering redemption or at least some semblance of justice

flawed hero is a complex character, often a detective or anti-hero, caught in a web of moral ambiguity. Hardened by a tough past and driven by a personal code, he navigates a shadowy world of deception and danger, where allies are few and trust is fleeting. He is entangled in complex, twisting plots that involve crime and corruption

Beneath a suspicious exterior, he hides a glimmer of idealism, though his efforts to right wrongs are marred by past mistakes. decisions are shadowed by regret, and his pursuit of justice often leads him to a world where redemption seems as elusive as the truth

are indeed damaged, distressed, or anguished men who betray patriarchal authority and have a resistance to socializing with others because they are haunted by the aftermath of a traumatic events They have gleaned insights as a result of their loss but also suffer from serious blind spots

Points to research

what are the gray areas of John wicks motivations

what are the darker themes surrounding grief

description of  the spiraling nature of revenge

gradually become the mirror image of the people he sets out to punish

use of moral ambiguity and corruption in film noir

**Femme fatale**

embodies seductive beauty dangerous entraps a man into her web of deceit and ruining him in some way minor villain showcases how flawed and greedy even the most professional of killers who are willing to betray the rules of the engagement known to the world of assassins

often much stronger than the male characters. completely ruthless. every word and gesture is calculated, weaving a web of seduction and mystery around her target. She is intelligent, assertive, and knows precisely how to manipulate those around her, seductive, mysterious woman who manipulates or entangles the flawed hero

often leading him into dangerous or morally compromising situations. She embodies allure and danger, using her intelligence and sexuality to achieve hidden, often self-serving, motives. she entangles in a dangerous game. independence in a world of shadows where her own vulnerabilities are carefully concealed

seductive, mysterious woman who manipulates or entangles the flawed hero, often leading him into dangerous or morally compromising situations. She embodies danger, using her allure and intelligence to achieve hidden, often self-serving, motives

A seductive and beautiful woman who brings disaster to anyone with whom she becomes involved. an archetype who is simultaneously a sexist figure of male fantasy but also a subversive character female who transgresses women’s limited social opportunities.

Although a stock character who embodies many negative tropes about women, but she is also multifaceted and complex. Her intelligence is as essential to the archetype as her beauty. It is her conniving and ambition that often drives plots

**Crime syndicate**

The word 'syndicate' itself just means a group of people but when combined with the word 'crime', it becomes known as a crime syndicate is a group or affiliation of people who together as a group commit illegal activities

the moneymen, the rich, whether from the straight world or the crooked ones, are monsters, soulless things icons of cruelty who will double-cross and dirty deal to protect wealth they already possess in abundance. Even in rigged game, they refuse to play fair

A powerful, organized group involved in illegal activities, such as drug trafficking, extortion, or smuggling. operate with hierarchy and secrecy, often manipulating or controlling political, legal, and social structures. They serve as the driving conflict and corruption

Corruption of power and the abuse of authority by figures depicted complicit in wrongdoing interdependent ranking among participants that distinguishes leaders from other members in the criminal enterprise as a government-like or military-like structure, in which illegal activities are organized and approved by superiors who are part of the group

these syndicates operate as complex, hierarchical networks that pull strings from the shadows, ensnaring police, politicians and other traditional authority figures. other characters trapped by syndicates through blackmail, coercion, or money

symbol of systemic corruption, reflecting societal fears of unchecked power and the ways it influences complex plots filled with tension, suspense, and betrayal, as other characters struggle to navigate a criminal world controlled by forces beyond their control

bosses will act as though they have or deserve control over everyone around them. they rise to power with toughness and cruelty while showing an ambitious desire for success and recognition but some bosses underneath express a twisted sensitivity and gentleness

lower ranking members are usually street-smart, immoral believes that they have larger powers than others, and have the ability to yield that power over large populations. In the most extreme cases, they think that they can control the world

**Shadow and light**

shadows grow long, movement along diagonal lines as well as the drama of an exaggerated perspective menacing shadow seems to rise directly out of the darkness of the building to the right. The effect is a heightened sense of anticipation and fear, and perhaps some measure of entrapment

Backlighting creates silhouettes of characters in a dark room. Silhouettes can be used symbolically to represent themes or emotions. For example, a long figure in a silhouette can evoke feelings of isolation or contemplation contrast creates a dramatic mood

use of intense, angular shadows as metaphors hinting at the hidden depths and secrets that lie beneath the surface of the action The play of light and shadow communicates emotions and subtext without words sense of loneliness and isolation they evoke reflecting the internal struggles of characters

Characters are frequently half-lit or obscured in shadow, symbolizing moral ambiguity, hidden motives, and internal conflict. Shadows stretch ominously across scenes, suggesting danger and psychological complexity. Harsh lighting on specific details, like faces or objects, heightens drama and tension, while deep shadows give the world a sense of entrapment and darkness.

hidden secrets linger in unlit spaces every shadowed corridor suggests an unseen danger. This dramatic lighting transforms the setting itself into a character, embodying the genre’s sense of mystery, deception, and moral ambiguity

Bright highlights and deep, impenetrable shadows create a visual tension that mirrors the moral complexities of characters. These shadows serve as metaphors, hinting at the hidden depths and secrets that lie beneath the surface of the narrative interplay of light and shadow can heighten emotions, emphasizing characters’ fear and turmoil

Film noir thrives on suspense, and lighting is the master of suspense-building. Shadows can hide crucial plot details, creating a sense of anticipation as audiences strain to see what lies in the darkness. The gradual revelation of information through well-placed light sources can keep viewers on the edge of their seats.

Points to research

use of neon lights to illuminate clandestine encounters

how does interplay of light and shadow reflects the duality of human nature

how can rim lighting be used to create a mysterious atmosphere

**Tilted angles**

camera movement along diagonal lines is drama of an exaggerated perception creates a sense of action and movement adds visual tension reflect shifts in character emotions or plot development important strategy to invest the viewer and earn their empathy

off-center convey a sense of unease. The shot psychologically impacts the mind of the viewer putting him in the shoes of the protagonist or the world portrayed on the screen The world is spiraling out of the grasp of the characters of the film

visually represent a character’s psychological state or to signal that something is wrong or abnormal in the story. By tilting the camera to about 20 degrees, shot deviates from the traditional level perspective to make the scene feel off-balance or unsettling

enhance making the audience feel the same disorientation or tension as the characters. mirrors a character’s internal turmoil to feel their confusion or instability effective in scenes where characters are experiencing intense emotional distress or mental disorientation

camera is tilted on its X-axis, which makes vertical lines in the frame appear slanted. By visually skewing the scene, it heightens distrust, inner conflict, and the collapse of normality. disrupts the usual visual stability, creating an unsettling, chaotic effect that mirrors characters' psychological turmoil. draws viewers into the character’s disturbed mindset

**Flashback**

used to construct a multidimensional plot shape a viewer’s understanding of plot create a sense of depth and complexity by showing different layers of a character’s past experiences, motivations, and emotions help understand certain motivations that were otherwise unclear or provide characterization in other ways

initiate the investigative structure, enriching the plot by reconstructing a mysterious past that influences the present. subjective viewpoint, enhancing the confessional tone as through voiceover, reveals hidden aspects of the story, merging past and present with a deeply personal lens characters are often haunted by their own choices and regrets.

flashbacks build tension and draw the audience into a world where the past is murky. retrospective storytelling adds an air of fatalism, as the viewer is aware that the hero's fate is already sealed. allows for layers of memory, doubt, and unreliable narration, reflecting the genre's themes of mistrust and moral ambiguity

A narrative technique used to reveal past events that shape the present story. It provides critical context, often exposing hidden motives, past traumas, or key relationships. Flashbacks contribute to the film’s nonlinear storytelling, emphasizing the psychological complexity of characters and the consequences of their past actions