**Essay Planner – Year 8 NAEP**

**Essay Map**

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| **Thesis statement:** |

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| **Topic sentence 1:** |

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| **Topic sentence 2:** |

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| **Topic sentence 3:** |

**Introduction:**

Contextual sentence: *September* (1968), directed by Peter Carstairs, is a film created for the Tropfest Feature Program and is set in the Wheatbelt of Western Australia shortly after the introduction of the Federal Pastoral Industry Award, a decision to pay rural Aboriginal workers wages instead of

TAG + Summary:In *September,* Carstairs explores the friendship between Ed Anderson and Paddy Parker in this typical bildungsroman or coming-of-age genre. Simultaneously he chronicles the impact of the introduction of the Federal Pastoral Industry Award, which legislated the payment of wages to Aboriginal farm workers, on men like Rick Anderson and Michael Parker, two mixed race friends who, like their sons, grew up together in the Western Australian Wheatbelt prior to the introduction of this ground-breaking legislation. No longer able to remain on the farm and work alongside Ed, Paddy Parker is forced to embrace change and seek a new life among Sharman’s travelling boxing troupe while his best friend, Ed, remains on the farm but has to confront the inherent racism present in Australian society.

Thesis statement: Key scenes in the film allow the characters to identify the impact of “a turbulent social and political climate” on the characters and in doing so develop the idea that, in the words of Metro Magazine, audiences are left “feeling pleasantly optimistic about the possibilities of human friendships,” as well as the notion that change has unintended consequences, a concept developed when, “The politics of the time are played out through the character’s choices and decisions,” are two themes explored by Carstairs.

Three key points: Through the use of visual conventions such as symbolism, montage, camera angles and sparse dialogue, the director uses the scene where Ed first returns to the farm to outline the depth of the friendship between the two boys and later their fight in the boxing ring is the climax of the film and appears to irrevocably signal the end of their friendship. Ed’s abandonment of Paddy outside Amelia’s house and his refusal to stand up for his friend and take responsibility for his actions works to, alongside the scenes where Michael Parker asks Rick for wages and where Lena Parker implicitly asks Eve Anderson for the same, explore the impact of colonialism as well as the effect of the new wages laws and raise the spectre of change, allowing viewers to understand that small changes can have huge impacts on the lives of individual Australians.

**Body Paragraph Structure**

Topic sentence: Identify a scene in the film, name one or more film techniques that develop ideas in this scene and identify the theme explored in the scene.

Reason: Describe the scene and explain how the selected technique in the film scene develops the theme you are discussing.

Evidence: Explain how your chosen theme is represented using filmic techniques.

Explanation: Explain the purpose of why the director would want/need to show this (discuss the theme developed).

Summary: Summarise how your theme is represented in this scene and how this is shown through a technique.

**Body Paragraph example**

Topic sentence: In the film, *September*, Peter Carstairs uses montage, proximity and sparse dialogue to reveal to viewers that Paddy and Ed are good friends through the way they spend time together on the farm every afternoon and evening.

Reason: The boy’s shared experiences, their conversations as they walk across the farm, sit atop the water tank or lie amongst the stubble; the fact the Ed teaches Paddy to read and they share Paddy’s boxing dream together, suggests the intensity of their relationship.

Evidence: For example, during the opening scenes of the film, montage is used by Carstairs to reveal …

Explanation:

Summary:

*There are other points of reference you can use – remember, you will need to refer to specific scenes and film techniques used in the film.*

Essay Planner – Year 8 ATAR

*Introduction:*

Contextual sentence (on the Civil Rights Movement/changes in society from 1940s to 1974):

TAG + Summary:

Thesis statement:

3 Key Points:

*Body Paragraph One:*

*Theme and how it is represented in the film through film conventions, e.g. the theme of friendship.*

Topic sentence: Identify a theme in the film (shown through plot, characterisation, setting), state how this theme is constructed by a (or more than one) film technique.

Reason: Explain the selected technique in the film scene related to the character, theme or relationship you are discussing.

Evidence: Explain how your chosen theme is represented using filmic techniques.

Explanation: Explain the purpose of why the director would want/need to show this.

Summary: Summarise how your theme is represented and how this is shown through a technique.

*Body Paragraph Two:*

*Theme and how it is represented in the film through film conventions, e.g. the theme of friendship – it changes with social and political pressure*

Topic sentence: Identify a theme in the film (shown through plot, characterisation, setting), how is this seen through a filmic technique.

Reason: Explain the selected technique in the film scene related to the character, theme or relationship you are discussing.

Evidence: Explain how your chosen theme is represented using filmic techniques.

Explanation: Explain the purpose of why the director would want/need to show this.

Summary: Summarise how your theme is represented and how this is shown through a technique.

*Body Paragraph Three:*

*Theme and how it is represented in the film through film conventions, e.g. the theme of change.*

Topic sentence: Identify a theme in the film (shown through plot, characterisation, setting), how is this seen through a filmic technique.

Reason: Explain the selected technique in the film scene related to the character, theme or relationship you are discussing.

Evidence: Explain how your chosen theme is represented using filmic techniques.

Explanation: Explain the purpose of why the director would want/need to show this.

Summary: Summarise how your theme is represented and how this is shown through a technique.

*Conclusion:*

Reintroduce the film (director, year, plot) and the film’s main message.

Sum up what you have discussed in your body paragraphs and the techniques used by the director.

Explain to your audience the reasons why Carstairs might have made choices in regards to themes of friendship and change, you could link to colonisation (if you dealt with it earlier in your essay) or link to the social and political pressures that impacted on Paddy”s and Ed’s friendship and created change in their world.

Evaluate the effectiveness (or lack thereof) of the film in conveying the message.