

Essay

Lights! Camera! Action!

Although Americans may seem to be absorbed by TV, teens and young adults still like to go to the movies. Going to the movies is better than staying home because the audio and visual experiences are more intense at the movies; there are no distractions or interruptions at the movies; and making the effort to get out and go to a movie is a more active use of my time.

If you have not visited your local theater or cinema lately, you will be amazed at how the current technology has enhanced the experience of watching a movie. The size of the screen and placement of stadium seating provide a visual experience that cannot be created on TV at home. Some movies provide special options to view in 3D. The surround sound experience makes the dialogue, music, and sound effects come alive for the audience. Finally, new techniques allow the viewer to be immersed in the movie, truly bringing you to places you have never been.

If you compare the energy it takes to go out to a movie instead of watching TV at home, you will find that going out is the more active choice. Setting time aside to do this gets you out in the community and provides a chance to see what is happening in your town. Making plans to go out often means meeting friends and acquaintances, whether you intended to or not. An evening spent out at the movies will help you avoid the passive channel surfing that often happens while at home on the couch.

In addition to providing a super audiovisual experience, a trip to the movie theater helps me leave many distractions and interruptions at home. When I decide to spend a few hours seeing a movie in a theater, I know I am leaving many distractions and interruptions at home. While my eyes are glued to the big screen, I am not able to open my computer and check work email just for a minute. There is no way I can take care of housework or jobs around the house; those things simply have to wait. Although I like my neighbors, it is a pleasure to watch a movie without interruptions from great friends stopping by.

In conclusion, a trip to the movies will always be better than staying home and watching TV. All those who enjoy the excitement of a night at the movies should make an effort to attend more movies this year. Let's get out there and support our local movie theaters!