

## **Damian Sclafani – Realism Response Assignment**

The films *Do the Right Thing* and *Out of Sight* both have many signs of realism. However, both show the functions of realism in different ways due to the way they build the world. In *Do the Right Thing*, realism is brought to life through the film giving a detailed showing of the neighborhood. In *Out of Sight*, realism is used due to the way the characters interact with each other. When comparing *Do the Right Thing* and *Out of Sight*, *Do the Right Thing* shows more realism than *Out of Sight* when considering the four categories of function: realist function, expressive function, aesthetic function, and constructive function.

*Do the Right Thing* definitely uses the realist function more than *Out of Sight*. On a basic level, *Do the Right Thing* plays out in a generic way that makes every experience feel real. It builds the world to make it feel like it could be real. Through its use of basic level realism, its ideological meaning gives a similar feeling since it is meant to relate to a real concept. *Out of Sight* does have the basic level of the realist function due to its characters all feeling real when they talk to one another. The characters all live in real situations like prison, and they all have their differences from each other. However, *Out of Sight* does not use the realist function for their ideological meaning. Therefore, *Do the Right Thing* has a bigger scene of realism due to the realist function.

*Do the Right Thing*'s ideological message uses the expressive function very well. *Do the Right Thing*'s world building allows for the message behind it to feel real to the viewer. Due to that, it cues the audience to at least want to respond to the message the film brings with it. However, in *Out of Sight* the only aspects of realism the viewer is supposed to respond to are the events that happen to the characters. The best examples of this come from the use of spontaneity. *Do the Right Thing* has many examples of overlapping dialogue, which provokes the characters

and the viewer to respond to what is going on. Along with that, the frames are often loosely frames, which also gives more of a real feeling. However, these are not as prevalent in Out of Sight. Due to this, Do the Right Thing uses the expressive function better than Out of Sight.

Both films use the aesthetic function well. I'd say that Out of Sight uses this better, however. The reason Out of Sight is better at using this function is due to their use of lighting. Being a mainstream Hollywood film, Out of Sight has the higher capability of using lighting to convey realism. Out of Sight definitely does this, which makes the viewer more emersed in the film. However, Do the Right Thing does not do this a lot. Although, the main source of lighting in most of the scenes in the film, the source of light was the sun. This use of lighting was also done well. Therefore, both films use aesthetic function well.

Finally, Do the Right Thing uses the constructive narrative function better than Out of Sight. In Do the Right Thing, the majority of the film is set on constructing the world around them. Due to the narrative of Do the Right Thing being this way, it allows the viewer to construct their own thoughts about the events that are happening. However, in Out of Sight, the only things being constructed are the plotline and the character development. Due to this, Out of Sight uses less of the constructive narrative function.

In conclusion, due to the use of the four realism functions, Do the Right Thing has a better sense of realism than Out of Sight. Do the Right Thing uses world building, spontaneity, natural lighting, and character development; while Out of Sight only uses lighting, character development, and real situations. Therefore, Do the Right Thing shows a greater sense of realism than Out of Sight. Although, Out of Sight does do a great job at using realism as well.