

Talking about cinematography

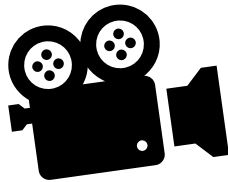
When analysing films, the focus on cinematographic elements is essential. It is not enough to just identify them. You also need to decipher their function and their effect on the viewer. Why did the film makers do something in a certain way? Remember: *Everything is there for a reason.*

The following phrases and chunks will help you to improve your analytical view and they will simplify the challenging task to detect the function that lies behind certain film elements.

Use these phrases/chunks when you analyse...

...music/sound:

- The music is upbeat/gloomy/aggressive/slow/fast-paced...
- The background music contributes to the atmosphere of...
- The (...) effect of this scene is enhanced by the music/contributes to the mood/ atmosphere of the scene
- The music provides an extra feeling of tension/grief/ infatuation...
- The lyrics suggest...
- The music describes the character...
- ... shows a certain mood/creates a certain atmosphere.



...camera operations:

- ... is presented in a low-angle shot/high-angle shot, which illustrates inferiority/vulnerability/superiority/power...
- The close-up is used to focus attention on... / reveals the character's feelings/makes the situation more intimate.
- The hand-held camera underlines/gives the scene an unsteady quality/aims for authenticity
- ... is used to build (up) suspense/tension/ to create a certain effect/to convey a feeling of...
- The over-the-shoulder shots include the viewers in the action.
- The point-of-view-shots make the audience experience the (emotional) perspective of...
- The ... is used to focus on.../draw attention to/ This emphasises/stresses/indicates...
- The establishing shot of the film shows/ portrays...

... symbolism in objects and actions:

- After/before that, there is a focus on (*certain object*). This indicates/emphasises/suggests...
- The portrayal of the American flag on his/her porch symbolises his/her deep affection to America/patriotism/the connection between ...
- The close-up on (*action or object*) leads the viewer to the assumption that... / is a foreshadowing to.../foreshadows...
- As he/she throws ... into the garbage, it symbolises his/her disconnection to/ disgust towards...

general terms:

- ... brings the viewer close to.../creates a distance between...
- The movement of ... is followed in a ... shot and emphasises...
- The scene is shot from X's point of view/ ... is seen from the perspective of... It has the effect on
- ... affects/touches the viewers
- suggests/signifies that/provides a strong contrast to/ serves as an insight into... /bridges two scenes



Remember:
Always connect a
cinematographic element to a
function!