

ADA 2024 Project Ideas

Idea 1: The Evolution of the Film Industry

As time progresses, both audience preferences and the film industry evolve. But how have these changes occurred, and are there elements that remain constant? For instance, what is the highest-grossing movie genre overall, and which is the most consistent? Has the popularity of certain genres peaked at specific times, perhaps in response to external events? Are blockbuster hits followed by a surge of similar films? Do factors like plot complexity or the number of named characters influence a movie's success across different genres? Exploring how these factors vary by region and over time could reveal interesting trends. Are some regions drawn to simpler stories, while others favor more complex narratives? This study could offer insight into the relationship between film trends and cultural shifts.

Idea 2: Who Are the Villains of the Story?

A society's fears are often reflected in its stories, particularly through the villains. What types of antagonists have dominated films, and how have they evolved over time? It seems plausible that Cold War films often portrayed Russian villains or that post-9/11 films saw a rise in extremist enemies. But is this really the case? What other patterns can we identify, and are these trends influenced by global events? Are today's main threats hackers, terrorists, or organized crime figures? Sci-fi adds another layer: are alien invasions, AI uprisings, or zombie apocalypses the most frequent depictions of future dangers? By analyzing plot summaries and villain archetypes over time and across regions, we can uncover how societies project their fears onto the big screen.

Idea 3: Generalist vs Specialist Actors

Is it better for actors to specialize in specific roles or showcase versatility across genres? By studying an actor's career, we can identify whether they tend to play the same types of characters or embrace a variety of roles. Do specialists, those who focus on certain archetypes, typically appear in more successful films? Are generalists, who take on diverse roles, featured in more films overall? Moreover, does an actor's career trajectory change if they start young? Do early successes shape future casting choices? By categorizing actors as generalists or specialists, we can explore whether versatility or specialization leads to longer and more successful careers. We can also examine what traits or factors lead actors to fall into one category or the other.