

Looking at Movies: An Introduction to Film

Screening Worksheet

Chapter 4: Cinematography

1. A movie's *cinematographic plan* is the overall look decided on by the cinematographer in collaboration with the director and other personnel directly involved in creating a movie's images. Do you think that the movie (or clip) that you are analyzing has such a plan? If so, describe its components, paying particular attention to the *film stock, lighting, lenses, framing, angles, depth, POV, scale, camera movement, and use of long takes*.
2. Does this movie (or clip) use *camera angles* in a way that creates explicit or implicit meanings? If so, which angles create what meanings?
3. Does the filmmaker's choice of *film stock* seem appropriate for the story being told? Explain.
4. Certain movies, such as those shot in the film noir style, create anticipated meanings. Does the overall system of lighting in the movie (or clip) you are analyzing create a system of meaning?
5. Cinematographic language ordinarily relies on *interaction among the three most commonly used shots*. Does the movie (or clip) you are analyzing conform to that statement? Explain.

6. To what extent and to what purpose does this movie (or clip) use *long takes*?

7. Does this movie (or clip) use *camera angles*, *scale within the shot*, *camera movement*, and *camera POV* in a way that calls attention to these techniques?

8. Is there a *pattern of framing* in this movie (or clip) that, in itself, helps to create meaning?

9. Do the images alone create meanings that are not reflected in the characters' action or dialogue? Explain.

10. Are you more likely to remember (a) the cinematography of this movie or (b) the narrative? Why?