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## Screening Checklist: What Is a Movie?

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- Before and after you see a film, think about the direct meanings, as well as the implications, of its *title*. Try to explain the title's meaning if it isn't self-evident.
- Is the film linked with a specific *genre*? If so, to what extent does it fulfill your expectations for that genre?
- Do any narrative or visual *patterns* recur a sufficient number of times to suggest a structural element in themselves? If so, what are these patterns? Do they help you determine the meaning of the film?
- Do you notice anything particular about the film's presentation of *cinematic space*—what you see on the screen? Lots of landscapes or close-ups? Moving or static camera?
- Does the director handle *cinematic time* in a way that calls attention to it?
- Does the director's use of *lighting* help to create meaning? If so, how?

- Do you identify with the camera lens? What does the director *compel* you to see? What is left to your imagination? What does the director leave out altogether? Besides showing you the action, how does the director's use of the camera help to create the film's meaning?