

Why did I like this film very much or why ... I didn't like it at all!

All videos of this festival are student productions. Each video presents moments that a group of students chose to show us from their daily life.

All of the films (as we usually call these videos) have a strong documentary character. In other words, they don't tell us an imaginary story. They rather record and present real situations around us, always through the filmmaker's personal view of the world we live in.

Writing a review on a film we don't merely try to put forward our own opinion about the film, but also we try to answer questions that could be asked by anyone in the audience who are watching the film. For each film, numerous questions could be asked and each of us might give his/her own answers.

Mostly we try to answer:

1. The film's identity:

What is the title of the film? How long is the film (duration)? When was it produced? In which school? By students of which grade?

2. Issues discussed in the film:

- In your opinion, what is the main subject that these students want to discuss in their film and what do they tell us about it? Are they clear enough and convincing in showing us what they wanted?
- What do we think about this subject? Does this subject concern us as well? Do we agree in the way that the filmmakers present their subject or would we view it in a different way? Is there something important which -in our own view- we feel that the film didn't touch?
- Are there any side-subjects discussed in this film? Do we have any remarks of our own about any of these side-subjects?

3. Film language:

- What is our impression of the film's picture? Do they remind us of life and reality in the same way that we usually experience it? Or perhaps the filmmakers chose to guide our imagination in looking at reality in a somehow different and weird way?
- What is our impression of the film's characters? Are they convincing enough? Do they look like us?
- What is the film's tempo? Is it fast or slow? Is it joyful and rhythmic? Or perhaps it is sad and distant? Is this tempo suitable to the film's subject?

- Would we make any comment about the music of the film?
- Does this film resemble to the films we usually watch, or is it somehow different? Can we describe how is this film different than most? Or, perhaps, we may have noticed some characteristics that make this film very similar to the films we usually watch.
- Were there any unforgettable moments in the film? Any moments that we will remember for a long time?
- Do we think that this film mostly resembles to a journal article that one would read in a newspaper? Or is it more like some thoughts and ideas we would share with a friend? Is it like a story told or even a poem or a song?

4. Overall impression:

Did we like this film? Was it honest? Was it clear? Did the film raise some questions that will stay with us for quite a few days? Did it remind us any of our own experiences? Overall, what kind of feelings did it create to us while watching it? Optimism? Pessimism? Unrest? Trust in something? Anger? Irony about something? Other?

As we said at the beginning, there are numerous questions that can be asked about each film. We often wonder how the filmmakers themselves would answer them. But they usually say "all we wanted to say, we have said it in our film. Now you tell us what you understood out of it"! For this reason, a well written review can only be written by a very careful reviewer. He/she will provide the answers that -in his/her own opinion- have been put forward by the film.

This does not necessarily mean that there can be answers to all questions asked. For each film, but also for each reviewer, some questions seem to fit and elicit very interesting answers, while others may not make any sense and should be disregarded. Especially when there is a limit of the text's length -as is the case of our contest- out of the many questions listed above, the reviewer should consider the ones that best allow him/her to express a well thought opinion.

To write a fair review responsibly, watching the film for the first time is not enough. It would be advisable to carefully view it for a second time.

- In our contest your text can vary between 300-900 words (this present guide is about 900 words long).
- Each student can submit a review on only one of the 11 videomuseum films.
- Each text submitted should also include the student's name, grade and his/her school's identity
- Reviews should be submitted to until the

And don't forget:

A review is not reflecting the filmmaker's opinion, but rather the opinion and views of its writer!

Have fun and enjoy participating!