*Mini-Scene-Analysis Exercise in preparation for your Essay…*

In your segment of film, watch it through, and decide…

1. **What ‘big idea about life’ is this telling me about?**

e.g.

* freedom and independence
* isolation and loneliness
* humans and nature
* family
* survival
* truth
* Other?

1. **Does this seem to be a good or bad thing? Is the Director commenting on this idea?  
   How do you know this? THROUGH THE TECHNIQUES USED! :)**

Ok, now that we have an idea of what the Director is saying about this ‘theme’, we can begin to look at the actual techniques used…

1. **Find 3 examples of techniques used, and their effect on the viewer.**

**Filmic Conventions:**

* Plot: Events
* Editing: (non-linear) / cutting between shots / pacing of shots
* Cinematography: Style (hand-held) / Shot types / Angles / Frame Composition
* Soundtrack: Acoustic / Sound Effects
* Mise en Scene: setting / lighting / costume
* Characterisation: how characters behave / acting quality
* Narration:
* (STYLISTIC FEATURE) Allusion / Intertextuality
* (STYLISTIC FEATURE) Irony

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Broad Technique  *e.g. Cinematography: wide landscape shots* | Example from Text *when Chris is in Alaska, shots are wide open* | Impact on Audience  *The audience feels the freedom he does.* |
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Based on this scene alone, you’ve practiced the skill of

1. Finding a theme (‘big idea’, something that reflects or comments on society)  
   *e.g. being independent*
2. Further refining this idea, to say that the Director is trying to claim something here…  
   *e.g. being independent is only good when…*
3. Evidence/Example from the text to substantiate your claims

*e.g. Plot: Chris’ independence lets him down when nature rejects him, e.g. Moose, river, this makes the viewer think in an ironic way that independence requires other people in life.*

NOW, you’re ready for the Essay scaffold!