

Sample Outlines

- Sample 1 / A
- Sample 2 / A-
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- Sample 5 / F

Sample Outline #1 / grade: A

Tone and Cognitive Disabilities Outline

- I. Intro
 - A. Cognitive disabilities are portrayed in lots of movies each one giving off a different tone towards disabilities
 - B. Some movies are created to help bring awareness and greater understanding towards those with cognitive disabilities while others continue to perpetuate negative stereotypes.
 - C. The film Pumpkin (2002) and Mary and Max (2006) both employ an overall tone of dark humor that causes the reader to feel discomfort and frustration in how society treats people with cognitive disabilities while still maintaining a comedic approach to lighten up the tone and force the viewer to laugh at society and their misunderstanding of the disabled, while the film Idiocracy (2006) uses ironic satire and comedy to encourages viewers to laugh at mental retardation and fear becoming mentally disabled themselves.
- II. Pumpkin (2002)
 - A. Story of a perfect sorority girl, Carolyn, who is at first horrifies to work with a mentally challenged man, Pumpkin, but soon falls in love with him to the dislike of all the other characters
 - B. Uses dark humor- viewer feels uncomfortable while still laughing and also help leads to ironic twist that show how hypocritical society can be
 - C. Make the viewer feel uncomfortable with open statements/ actions made by characters
 1. Carolyn tries to set up Pumpkin and her socially isolated friend on a date
 - a. Doesn't tell the friend about Pumpkins disabilities and tells her to remember he's got a deep soul, and to try and get to know him
 - b. The friend and Carolyn's boyfriend are extremely upset and embarrassed, while Carolyn doesn't understand what was so horrible making the situation uncomfortable for the viewer
 - c. Viewer can laugh at how Carolyn doesn't understand why her actions were wrong but can began to see how her naïve nature caused by her perfect life almost makes her the "better person" because she doesn't believe his disability should matter
 - d. Causes the viewer to consider if she was wrong in this situation or were the others wrong for believing a person of average intelligence

shouldn't date or should be possibly embarrassed to date someone with a lower IQ

2. Beginning of film Carolyn trying to convince other sorority girls to not take on the "challenged Olympics"
 - a. uses phrases such as "those people", "they are different", "they don't belong" "unfortunates"
 - b. Phrases are very blunt and what she truly believes
 - c. Other characters act appalled and uncomfortable convincing the viewer that this blunt dislike and attempt to separate is inappropriate
 - D. Has the viewer think about if society is really fully accepting of the mentally disabled or are they accepting to an extent and passive about their judgment
 1. Ironic twist comes when Carolyn is able to learn her errors and truly accept Pumpkin and his friends fully and the rest of society cannot
 - a. The rest of society is not as open about their disapproval or judgment but it comes through when Carolyn and Pumpkin show their love for one another
 - b. His mother refusing to let them be together after she catches them in bed, her sorority disowning her, her parents uncomfortable behavior towards her when she returns home (father in particular)
 - c. Brings up the question is it ok to be passively judgmental as long as you are polite in societies eyes
 - d. The irony in this situation is also shown through the fact that society judges Carolyn extremely harshly but not necessarily Pumpkin for their relationship, even though all she is doing is fully accepting him and his disability
 - E. Constructing Normalacy (DSR p. 3)
 1. Problem is not the person with the disability but instead how normalacy is created to make a problem
 2. Nothing wrong with Pumpkin falling in love or Carolyn falling in love problem is society has decided it isn't right for them to fall in love with each other
 3. No real problem with what they are doing until society created one
 - F. The dark humor allows the ability to add some comedy on an uncomfortable topic in society (love between two different intelligences) while still showing the viewer how ironic and mislead society can be about there actual acceptance of those with cognitive disabilities
- III. Mary and Max (2006)
- A. Story of a out-casted, neglected young Australian girl (Mary) who becomes pen pals with a middle age New York man (Max) with Asperger's syndrome
 - B. Uses dark humor to shed light on what asperger's syndrome is and how society judges it
 - C. Max explains to Mary in a humorous letter what it feels like to have aspergers which allows the viewer some insight

1. Explains how its hard for him to have relationships
 - a. He instead has pets and his invisible friend
 - b. Example of how he thought he was doing something nice by giving the receptionist who loves cats a feline rectal thermometer
 - i. Trouble understanding others desires
 2. Hard for him to understand others emotions
 - a. Made his "face book" to reference other emotions
 - b. Have trouble feeling sadness, can't cry
- D. Also shows the viewer how misunderstood by society those with aspergers can be
1. Continuously having to find a new job because he's being let go do to people not understanding his behavior is due to aspergers
 - a. Works for the Army and tells them he is a member of the New York science fiction fan club when they ask if he has ever been a Communist, gets let go because they don't understand he takes everything very literal
 2. Outright tells Mary that he hates that people say they need to fix him or find a cure
 - a. He believe his aspergers makes him the person he is and doesn't want to change that
 3. She still decides to study to study mental diseases and eventually writes a book claiming that she will help find a cure
 - a. Trouble understanding why it upsets him so much because she believes his life would be better without aspergers
 4. Relate Mary's ideas to Autism as a Culture (DSR p. 535)
 - a. Medical society it to be a deficit and something to be treated
 - b. Needs to be cured
- E. Through the humorous situations and use of claymation Mary and Max (2006) show the reader a very honest representation of what asperger's syndrome is and how society has trouble understanding it

IV. Idiocracy (2006)

- A. A film about an average man who is cryogenically frozen and awakens 500 years later to find everyone has a extremely low IQ and he is now the smartest man in the America
- B. Uses outrageous over the top humor and irony to force the reader to laugh at and fear becoming mentally disabled
- C. The film portrays mentally disabled as poor, uneducated, unproductive citizens to be made fun of and laughed at
 1. Shows those of 'low IQ' in the beginning are constantly having children, live in trailers, multiple girlfriends pregnant and uneducated
 - a. Claim this is where all the mentally disabled later in the movies spawned from
 2. Also portray mentally disabled as people who only care about basic needs
 - a. Sex, aggression and food

- b. Doesn't show them as compassionate, curious, kind, talented people at all even though many mentally disabled have those traits
 - D. Uses satire to show the reader that society must change but this can lead to the viewers fear of having mentally disabled in the community
 - 1. Gives off poor view of the mentally disabled
 - a. Can't do anything for themselves
 - b. Can't sustain life (dust bowl, no more growth)
 - c. Can't understand basic ideas (doesn't understand using water on plants)
 - 2. Tells viewers that if everyone was mentally disabled society would be doomed
 - a. Trash would build up, farmer would no longer exist, no more food production
 - E. The film uses irony to attempt to deter society away from reproducing a population of low IQ and presents the mentally disabled in an over the top, comedic way that perpetuates the stereotypes
- V. These 3 films use tone in different manners to present mental disabilities in a variety of ways
 - A. The first two films attempt to enlighten viewers to the actual emotions and hardships of those with the disability and how society has a tendency to not only misunderstand them but also passively judge them
 - B. The second films while funny gives off a message that we should be trying to move away from: the idea that being mentally disabled is a negative thing that should be feared
 - C. We need to continue to make the public aware of the hardships of the mentally disabled and how to accept them fully
 - 1. Films can help do this as long as we use tones that don't continue to reinforce already existing stigmas and stereotypes

Sample Outline #2 / grade: A-

1. Introduction

- a. Building up to argument and thesis
- b. Introduce films and tones depicted
- c. The **comical** and humorous tone exalted through Sloth in *The Goonies* (1985) animates the viewer's imagination by placing our unfamiliar hero in situations of dire turmoil, while the dark and grim solidity throughout *Edward Scissorhands* (1990) provides a sense of **pity** and fear approaching a near horrific motif. *The Dark Knight* (2008) exemplifies how directors able to manipulate iconic characters as villains by altering their physical being towards a not easily understood obscurity. **fear**

2. The Goonies

- a. We first encounter the Fratelli brother; we come to know as Sloth, solitarily confined in chains. Sloths facial disfigurement and unpleasant cries startle the audience with an image of which we are unfamiliar, imbedding an impression of uncertain fear. Later we begin to grow with our surprising hero, realizing he is merely a victim in a family of misfits. Sloths strong heart and loving nature creates a bond with the audience, paralleling the construction of his goofy and humorous antics witnessed throughout his journey.
 - i. Pipes scene
 - ii. Baby Ruth scene
 - iii. Superman/Pirate scene
- b. The director uses Sloths disfigurement to at first set a tone of lesser being, as in he is merely less than a man due to his abnormal features, and slow thought process. At first we are unsure if (like the other Fratellis) Sloth is of good nature, but we are quickly swayed towards his childish nature establishing our ludicrous and jolly hero.
 - i. Sloths interactions with his family
 - ii. Sloth and his new friends
 - iii. Chunks first encounter with Sloth
- c. The director is able to mold the audience's emotions and mindset by placing Sloth in unconventional and unrealistic settings, where his antics and good nature prevail over the Fratelli's divine scheme.
 - i. Sloths love for his mother
 - ii. Sloths sacrificing his well-being for the Goonies
- d. Recall and support thesis

3. Edward Scissor Hands

- a. Edward is portrayed as an outcast, an individual who comes off as frightening to others. His pale cryptic skin tone, striking dark leather attire and sharpened scissor hands, and nappy midnight black hair establishes a perilous first tone with the viewers. Edwards scarred facial features and misfit façade influence the

audience to believe that he is almost sinister. Residing a top of a small suburb housing track, his home embodies frightful features. We learn that Edward is misunderstood, his abnormality and differences create a certain eerie nature in which the neighbors are not accustomed.

- i. Scene where Peg enters his house trying to sell Avon Cosmetics
- ii. The first time we meet Edward
- iii. When the neighbors are concerned once he gets out of jail

b. We first encounter Edward up in the dark demolished attic, where he approaches Peg with a frightful walk. The eerie and tense mood established was increased by the grim orchestrated background music. The histrionically directed scene employs a bleak and grim tone with the audience. Edwards house and attire liberation of dark colors creates a deathly vibe, contrasting the general vibrant color tone of each neighbor's house and apparel. By manipulating tools such as color tone and music selection the director is able to distinguish between Edward and the other characters, out casting him from the neighbors. The director parallels Edwards's disfigurement with an unnerving and spooky tone from the beginning to end of the film.

- i. First encounter with Edward
- ii. Edwards Rant
- iii. Each scene with Edward, and how the colors contrast
- iv. When he is getting arrested (the arrest and release)

c. We see Edward as different, he doesn't fit in. His prosthetic hands, pale features, and unnerving impression provide an uneasy sense of fear and pity. The contrasting colors outcast Edward, attaching a type of pity towards his character; while his fashion style and grim attributes keeps the audience on their toes.

- i. The scene where Edward is on television
- ii. When the crowd of neighbors show up on Edwards courtyard

d. As in the Goonies, the media and film directors are able manipulate disabled characters in order to bestow the audience with a range of emotions such as pity, fear, and joy.

4. The Dark Knight

a. Harvey Dent was a high-profile District Attorney of Gotham City, he a man who stood up for the greater good, a true class act, even considered to as a hero. He put the majority of Gotham's crooks behind bars, but this all changed after a dreadful situation involving the love of his life went terribly wrong. Harvey suffered severe burns, and was persuaded to make a turn for the worst; he was then reborn as the villain Two-Face. Half of Harvey's face had been burnt off during a struggle to escape from near certain death, ironically fitting for his personality. Two-Face showers the city seeking revenge on whomever he pleased. The director is able to take a public hero and manipulate his personality and physical features into a fearful disfigured villain.

- i. When he showers the city seeking revenge
 - ii. His public address, when he says he is the batman
 - b. The audience grew to know Harvey Dent as a well-rounded, good looking, and normal individual. Once reborn, his disgusting facial disfigurement, sinister mentality, and evil nature has viewers waving their finger at our old hero. The cryptic facial feature has the audience hiding in their seats, and unnerving towards his attitude. The director shows how using a disability, the audiences perception can be swayed in any direction.
 - i. How character react when they see Two-Face
 - ii. Two-Faces scheme, his intentions and how they are uneasy on the audience
 - c. Outside of Two-Face, other super villains in the film are depicted by their disfigurements. The Joker is considerably the worst villain, the king pin, a soulless creature. He has scars reaching from his mouth to upper cheeks, so that he is always smiling. Two-Face and the Joker has abnormal attributes differentiate the two villains from the hero Batman and all other pedestrians. Their differences provide a scapegoat for the audience to give them a cold shoulder, while idolizing their hero whom resembles the motif of an idealist man.
 - i. Describe Batman, and Gordon contrasting them with the Joker and Two-Face
 - ii. How Harvey Dents physical features where changed from when he was a hero to his famous alias of Two-Face
 - d. Directors are able to manipulate the audience's perception of characters by employing disfigurements, taking advantage of our judgmental nature. As supported with Sloth from the *Goonies* (1985) and Edward in *Edward Scissorhands* (1990), directors use disfiguring ailments and injuries simple tools employed to sway the viewer's judgments and emotions.

5. Conclusion

- a. Wrap up the main themes that support the thesis. How directors use disfiguring ailments and injuries as a tool to sway the viewer's perception.

Sample Outline #3 / grade: B

Thesis: Lars Von Trier's *The Element of Crime* and Flannery O'Connor's "Revelation" depict main characters who reject biblical ideas. The rejection is in fruition through their inherent wickedness and through the presence of physical harm. The characters do not intend to manifest these rejections, but in doing so, they realize their stance with God.

A. Wickedness

i. Fisher under hypnosis

a. tainted mind, succumbing under another influence, becomes mad himself ("And he said, "What comes out of a person is what defiles him. For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts..." Mark 7:20-23; "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind..." Romans 12:2)

ii. Fisher and sex

a. has animalistic sex with a prostitute, takes pills to hinder the feelings (James 2:11, 1 Corinthians 6:18)
b. prostitute has negative connotation; Rahab was a prostitute, but was used for God's kingdom; in the same way, Kim was 'used' to help Fisher solve the crime (James 2:25), but she did not help for redemption

i. extra references: Joshua 2:1, 3; 6:17-25; Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:3

iii. Mrs. Turpin and separation

a. husband as 'Claud'

i. signifies that she looks down on her own husband ("when the Turpins entered"; "put a firm hand on Claud's shoulder...and gave him a push down into the vacant one." p633) (Proverbs 31:12)

ii. he is accustomed to her behavior ("Claud looked up with a sigh and made as if to rise" p633)

b. comparing herself to other patients

i. ("Mrs. Turpin always noticed people's feet." p635)

ii. ("She was not white trash...naming the classes of people" p636)

iv. Mrs. Turpin and thoughts

a. reverse psychology ("...but me I just look at something good to eat and I gain some weight" p634; "was fat, but she had always had good skin" p635;)

b. racism ("Worse than niggers any day" p635;)

B. Presence of Physical Harm

i. Fisher and negligence of the child

a. as he goes deeper into the hypnosis, he gets further and further away from his childlike innocence. his negligence for the safety of the child depicts how he is getting further from God ("Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 18:3)

ii. The Dive

a. the environment was so distraught, people would rather have their lives be taken than continue in the despair (Romans 6:23, John 3:36, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12)

iii. Mrs. Turpin and the book

- a. physical wake-up call to snap out of her thoughts (“Go back to hell where you came from, you old wart hog” p646; “She had been singled out for the message, though there was trash in the room to whom it might justly have been applied.” p647)

C. Artistic Styles that Contribute to Rejection

i. Lars Von Trier and color

- a. sepia: dream-like state; parallels to “The Visage of War” (Dali, 1940), chaos within the openings of the head, with more skulls within skulls. not clear, muddled
- b. water: not cleansing as the bible suggests (keeps the darkness and murkiness). Isaiah 33:15-16 says if the environment was more pure, then the water will also be pure
- c. voice-over: omnipresent, as if God is speaking, yet ominous, un-uplifting words spoken (rejects Matthew 3:17)

ii. Flannery O’Connor

- a. clothing/outward appearance: the “just”: characters had qualities that were not deemed “just”, but were more Christian than her (“the ugly girl” p637; “raw-complexioned girl” p640; “trashy woman” p641;)

D. Conclusion

i. Fisher and distance from God

- a. he becomes a murderer and aligns his mind with the serial killer (3 John 1:11 we should align with goodness, but Fisher reverts to retracing The Element of Crime and solving the crime)

ii. Mrs. Turpin and closeness to God

- a. ending scene where she is placed at the end of the line to heaven (Matthew 7:1 she realizes she should not judge and that she is equal in the eyes of God)

Sample Outline #4 / grade: C

Thesis:

1. The films, *Afraid of the Dark* (1991), *See No Evil, Hear No Evil* (1989) and *At First Sight* (1999), use tone to suggest that visually impaired people have a distorted view on reality. Whether it is a horrific tone, like in *Afraid of the Dark* when Lucas imagines that a slasher is preying on the blind, a romantic tone, like in *At First Sight* where Virgil's romance changes with his ability to see, or a comedic tone, like in *See No Evil, Hear No Evil* where Wally is continuously joking about his blind perspective.

Body:

1. Aotd: lucas with glasses to lucas without glasses.
2. Aotd: lucas perspective and experiences without the glasses
 - a. Lucas day dream where he can see (no glasses)
 - i. Dad being a cop
 - ii. Mother and others being blind
 - iii. Witnessing murders
 - b. Killer dog
 - c. Running through cemetery, sees killers
3. Aotd: lucas reality (with glasses)
 - a. Dad is florist
 - b. Mom and others are not blind
 - c. Has a sister, about to get married
 - d. Sees people who he thought were killers, really just townspeople
4. Snehne: wally joking about his perspective
 - a. Pretends to see
 - i. Reads newspaper (upside down)
 - ii. Jokingly says he thought he was white
 - iii. Walks a blind person across the street
 - iv. Walks without cane
5. Snehne: How dave helps him/ how he helps dave
 - a. Icecream on head
 - b. Bar fight
 - c. Driving
 - d. "doctor" at resort
6. Snehne: wally philosophy on life
7. afs: virgil in the beginning
 - a. massage
 - b. flirtatious
 - c. lives with sister
 - d. likes hockey
8. afs: virgil meets amy
 - a. ice skate
 - b. tour of town

- c. old building, new to virgil
 - d. sister view on amy
- 9. afs: in new York
 - a. virgil out of his element
- 10. afs: surgery
 - a. virgil reaction before and after
 - b. virgil dislikes seeing at first
 - c. wisdom from phil
- 11. afs: things virgil sees
 - a. kiss at party
 - b. naked amy
 - c. hockey game
- 12. afs: virgil losing sight
 - a. how he handles it
 - b. how amy handles it
- 13. relating lucas to virgil
 - a. both feel differently about things with vision and without vision
- 14. wally and virgil
 - a. wally acquired blind, virgil born blind
 - b. wally pretends to see
 - c. virgil prefers not to see
- 15. conclusion

Outline

- 1) Thesis: Most humans wouldn't consider if their bodies are fit for housing another person.
Even though most people would consider themselves a good person, our actions and beliefs have no way of being measured and evaluated. We are told through the bible that our body serves as a residing place for Gods spirit. In the works of this artist we see this idea being dismissed.

- 2) Temple of the holy ghost
 - a) Two girls influence younger with words and actions. Shapes her way of seeing things
 - b) 1 cor 6:19-20....body is temple
 - c) **The environment shapes our beliefs and our thoughts in the future.**

- 3) Dali wife building
 - a) Glorifies wife, sexual immorality
 - b) 1 peter 3:3-4- Adorning internal not external
 - c) **Our infatuation with material things, including flesh, clouds our minds and distorts the connection with god**

- 4) Movie Kingdom
 - a) Dr. Helm knowledge blinds him, thinks he knows everything, becomes immoral... kid bad operation
 - b) 1 cor 1:17-31—preach not with knowledge or wisdom.
 - c) **Our knowledge may lead us to self-glorification**