**Writing the Film Review**

***Due Friday, May 20th***

Your final assignment for *The Color Purple* is to write a film review, assuming the role of a movie critic. You can read sample film reviews at [www.rottentomatoes.com](http://www.rottentomatoes.com) or [www.nytimes.com/section/movies](http://www.nytimes.com/section/movies). Although there is not a set formula to follow when writing a film review, the genre does have certain common elements. **Do not consult other film reviews of *The Color Purple*. I want to hear from you….not a film critic.**

**Introduction**

In the opening of your review, provide some basic information about the film. You should include film’s name, year, director, screenwriter, and major actors. Your introduction, which may be longer than one paragraph, should also begin to evaluate the film, and it should allude to the central concept of the review. A film review does not have to contain a thesis or main claim, but it should focus on a central analysis and assessment.

**Plot Overview**

Remember that readers of film reviews might not yet have seen the film. While you want to provide some plot summary, keep this brief and avoid retelling the story. Also avoid spoilers or providing too much detail, which can detract from your critique of the film.

**Description**

While the plot summary will give the reader a general sense of what the film is about, you **must include a description of your particular cinematic experience watching the film.** This may include your personal impression of what the **film looks, feels, and sounds like**. In other words, what stands out in your mind when you think about this particular film? Use concrete examples and avoid stating the obvious. **Think critically about how the film bring IDEAS to life and adapts Walker’s story** for the screen.

**Analysis**

In order to explain your impression of the film, consider how well the film utilizes formal techniques and thematic content. How do the film’s formal techniques (such as cinematography, editing, lighting, costumes, character, genre, or narrative) affect the way the film looks, feels, and sounds to you? How does the thematic content (such as history, race, gender, sexuality, class, or the environment) affect your experience and interpretation? Also, do the formal techniques work to forward the thematic content? You are making a judgment here. **You must critique the film, not just summarize how it compares to the novel.**

**Conclusion/Evaluation**

The closing of your film review should remind the reader of your general thoughts and impressions of the film. You may consider what may be lost or gained in the adaptation from the book. You may also implicitly or explicitly state whether or not you recommend the film. Make sure to remind the reader of why the film is or is not worth seeing.