

Here is a sample of what the top right or top left of the first page should look like (with the same single-spacing between lines):

By Samantha Student

Professor Neil Schaefer

Due <Insert due date>

Film review of Encounters at the End of the World, Copyright 2007, 101 minutes

My Rating: 4 1/2 Stars out of 5. [Increments of ½ star are fine]

<Title of your film review>

Here are some tips about the content of the review:

- (1) Write for an audience of prospective viewers of the film. So, aim for a **breezy, non-academic style** (examples of such film reviews are in the forthcoming handout/pdf by Christopher Null). Occasional relevant humor can jazz up a film review. The introductory and concluding paragraphs should be very short.
- (2) The fundamental goal is to **help the reader decide whether to invest her time and money in watching the film**.
- (3) Aim for a catchy beginning and a catchy ending.
- (4) Briefly summarize the film with an emphasis on the first third in order to **avoid spoilers**.
- (5) Use the Christopher Null pdf, pp. 38-39, for some good questions to answer in your analysis, commentary, and evaluation (ACE). Assess some of the choices made by the director or others involved in the film.
- (6) In the final version, **your summary/synopsis of the film should total no more than 1 page, and your ACE material should total at least 1 ½ pages**. The rest can be a very short introductory paragraph and a very short concluding paragraph. Avoid or minimize repetition. Typically, the synopsis comes before ACE, but sometimes they are woven together.
- (7) Try to include at least a few quotes or scene descriptions from the film, and use them to give a sense of what the film is like and to illustrate or give evidence for points you're trying to make.
- (8) Treat your star rating as the **thesis** for your review. The review itself should provide evidence to justify your star rating. For example, evidence for a 2 ½ star rating would require some positive points about the film approximately balanced with some negative points. Back up those points with example(s) from the film. Here is a key premise that might be used to support a 5 Star rating of *An Inconvenient Truth*: "This film masterfully uses logos, ethos, and pathos to help convince the viewer that climate change is real, that it is human caused, and that strong and quick action must be taken to mitigate it." In the review you would define logos, ethos, and pathos (the Mark Minster reading has definitions of these terms, which you could use or modify based on other Aristotelean definitions you might find elsewhere). You would also provide examples from the film to support the key premise and, if necessary, explain how or why they support it.
- (9) There is much more advice in the Christopher Null pdf that I'm sending you.