PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL
Purpose, Preparation, Pride

Name: _____

Date: _____

Hollywood vs. History - Mr. Ott

WEEKLY REVIEW ASSIGNMENT
QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

After every Saturday class, you will choose one film to write a review about. If we have more than one film, you need to choose only one. We may also be viewing portions of history documentaries for these subjects. This will allow you to see the historical facts verses the Hollywood version.. You may want to research the film topic before you watch the film in class in order to provide yourself with the adequate background information. Acquiring this information beforehand and keeping it constantly in mind will smooth out your writing process. The following questions are valuable to answer within your review:

1) **What is the main issue/topic of the documentary?** Is it a political, social, or just informative piece? This is the first step to writing your review. Knowing whether the film has political, economic, religious, social, intellectual, and geographic (PERSIA) based elements will affect the specific details that you choose to discuss within your review as well as slightly alter your audience.
2) **What is the context of the film?** Is this film controversial? (Do research if necessary!) Context will help both you and your readers determine the significance and accuracy of the film based on the events at the time. Including context into your review will also allow readers to see that you are knowledgeable in your topic.
3) **What is the history of the director of the film?** There are some directors who are well-known for making especially biased pieces (i.e. Oliver Stone) or who are well-acquainted with the subjects whom they are filming, which will give you an idea as to the bias of the film.
4) **How accurate is the film?** Using the context and the history of the director, you can find out what is accurate, inaccurate, or slightly skewed about the documentary. It is very important to inform your reader about this.
5) **What have you decided your audience to be?** Here, you will decide whether to write to Group #1, Group #2, or both as discussed above, which will affect the style of your review. Under this question are two more specific ones:

    A. **What do participants have to know or believe to understand or appreciate this film?** Your answer to this question is exactly the background information that what you will have to inform your reader about, whether it is in the introduction or insinuated throughout the review. For example, if your film is about some unheard-of sport, you may first have to explain the sport's rules in your review. Of course, you may need to do some assumptions as to what you think your audience knows and does not know.

    B. **Who would you like to invite into your audience and who is excluded?** This information is very important to reveal at the beginning of your review because after the first few sentences, readers will know whether or not they are interested, and you should waste as little of their time as possible. Sometimes, making this apparent will require you to change your tone a bit to match the topic of which you are writing.

6) **Which specific points in the film do you wish to analyze in detail?** (These can include scenes, quotes, fluency of film, bias, use of imagery, use of music/sound, degree of interest, juxtaposition of shots, etc.) .

ALL REVIEWS MUST BE TYPED. 12pt New Times Roman Font. MLA Formated. With proper in-text citations and a works cited page. If you are not sure of the format, please ask.