

# Film Analysis Worksheet

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“Hello. My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die.”  
--Mandy Patinkin as Inigo Montoya in *The Princess Bride* (1987)

<b>Title</b>	
<b>Year</b>	
<b>Writer</b>	
<b>Producer</b>	

Historical/Contextual Details: When was the film released? Which events, philosophies, etc. influence this film, and what do we need to know about them? Which genre/tradition does the film belong to? Are there ideas or terms from this work that would be helpful to define? Was this film adapted from another work? How was it received when released?

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What do you know about the culture or society for which this film was created?:

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Background Sources (lecture, internet, DVD notes, etc): \_\_\_\_\_

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- **First Look**

What do you think the title means? What do you expect from the film because of it?

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How are the opening credits presented? Why do you think the director chose to present them this way? \_\_\_\_\_

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How does the film start? How does this affect you as a viewer? \_\_\_\_\_

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- **Closer Look**

Story/Theme Development: What are the three most important scenes in the film? Why? What scene constitutes the film's climax? How does this scene illustrate the main idea of the film? Does the film leave any disunities (loose ends) at the end? If so, what does it suggest? Why does the film conclude on this particular image? \_\_\_\_\_

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Characterization: How are the characters developed? What is their purpose in the film? What do they do/wear/say, etc. that establishes this purpose? \_\_\_\_\_

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Cinematography: How does the film use color or light/dark to suggest tone and mood in different scenes? Are there any striking uses of perspective (seeing through a character's eyes, camera angle, etc.)? How does this relate to the meaning of the scene?

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Mise-en-Scene: Are there any motifs (scenes, images, colors) that are repeated or have a special impact? When do they occur and what purpose do they serve? \_\_\_\_\_

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Sound/Soundtrack: Is sound or silence used to enhance the film? (i.e., create drama, heighten tension, disorient the viewer, aid characterization, foreshadowing, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

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Editing: How and when are scenes cut/organized? Are there any patterns in the way the shots and cuts function? \_\_\_\_\_

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- **Connections**

Pick elements from the film that you find the most compelling. Do these remind you of other references? What could that linking mean? List your associations below.

Element	Associations

- **Starting Your Analysis**

Using your notes from the previous pages, consider the following prompts as a start to your analysis:

- How does this film relate to the literary texts? How are they different/the same?
- What is the director's purpose? Is there an agenda/message/theme in the movie?
- What roles do the characters play? How do they relate to the message of the film?
- Does the director use symbols in the film? What are they? What do they mean?
- What is influencing the film (e.g. social ideologies, historical events, personal life)?
- Is the director trying to do something new in the genre/time period? What is he or she trying to change?
- How does the film compare to other films of the same director, genre, theme, etc.? What is the same? What is different? What can you infer from these similarities/dissimilarities about the film or the director?