How to analyse a scene

Denotation & Connotation

Denotation

Connotation

Connotation

Connotation

KEY MEDIA TERMINOLOGY

Overall message

Representation of race

Context of characters

Structure of scene – include key terms

DESCRIBE THE SCENE

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GUIDANCE

When analysing a scene –

1. Start with the bottom of the pyramid – what is the overall message – then think about how the scene reinforces or challenges stereotypes.
2. Then you need to think about what more you can say about individual characters – why they have behaved in the way they have, is it linked to stereotypes or not?
3. Then you think about how the scene is structured in a way that helps you draw these conclusions. See if you can annotate the paragraph below with the idea of the pyramid.

For example – *At the start of the scene we see a close up on Cruz’s eyes, it’s clear he has been crying we hear the diegetic sound of his screaming to emphasise his upset, the diegetic dialogue of Cruz swearing at Coach Carter, Coach Carter responds by pushing Cruz into the wall. In this scene the characters are in conflict because Cruz refuses to follow the rules laid down by Coach Carter which shows a lack of respect for the coach. The lack of respect Cruz shows towards Coach Carter reinforces stereotypes of young black men not respecting authority and being trouble makers. This representation also links to the message of the film which highlights the need for young people to listen to their elders if they want to achieve success.*

Read the paragraph above – can you identify which part of the pyramid relates to the each part of the paragraph?

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| DO’S  | DON’TS |
| To develop your analysis you should analyse each character separately. You should choose specific parts of each scene to perform an analysis. | Make general statements about a scene |
| Use Key media terms from Mise En Scene, Editing, Camera and Sound and then think about what meanings are created for the audience.  | Just describe what you see. |
| Provide a range of connotations based on the pyramid above to access the higher grades  |  |
| Use key terms accurately – use your key term sheet to help you.  |  |