Project B1 Title: Background Notes

Description

This project allows the instructor to make creative, time-saving use of students while also allowing them to demonstrate their research competence. After an introduction to the print sources in the library (media center), students each be assigned one of the films the class will view during the year. They will then research the critical background for the film and make a four-page set of Background Notes. These must include a list of the major artists involved (simple research), a few pictures from the film (simple downloading), two critical essays from reputable print sources with differing views on the film and a student-created bullet list of "what to watch for." These are then distributed to each student in the class prior to film viewing with the request to not read the critical essays until after an initial viewing. To insure the quality of the Notes, the instructor should probably model the first set.

Product

At the conclusion of this project the student(s) will create a 4-page set of Background Notes for an assigned film from the course.

Objectives

This project is designed to allow students to:
- Gain research confidence
- Gain an appreciation of print sources as opposed to simple websites or blogs
- Acquire the habit of research as a necessary component for the other strands

Support

Success on this project will depend on lessons in:
- Where to look for print sources in the library
- The difference between an online database and a website

Resources

Essential resources - a list of the online databases the school and the local library have access to.

Variants

This project might be modified by requiring students turn in a draft for initial review, or to have students actually teach some of the context for viewing prior to the class screening. This would require creator of the Notes to view the film before hand.