

## Film Essay – BRAINSTORMING SHEET

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>What was happening in SOCIETY in the 1890s - 1930s?</b></p> <p>(THEMES: Political, social &amp; economic trends of the time)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>What was happening with MOVIES in the 1890s - 1930s?</b></p> <p>(EXAMPLES: the movies, the technology behind films, the actors &amp; the way the film business itself was set up.)</p>
<p>1890s-1910s:</p> <p>Immigration to US - non english speakers, poor</p> <p>Growth of industry, technology</p> <p>railroad connects people</p> <p>workers - factory work, low paid</p> <p>growth of cities</p> <p>WWI in Europe (US neutral until end)</p>	<p>→ silent films, flickers + nickelodeans <i>no language barrier</i> <i>cheap, in working class neighborhoods</i></p> <p>→ new film devices made, improvements + innovation (kinetoscope) (kodak camera)</p> <p>→ film houses accessible, affordable (Nickelodean → nice theaters) <i>animation improved by celluloid technology</i> <i>Or. Travis Robbery</i> <i>Felix the Cat (celluloid tech)</i></p> <p>→ Hollywood takes chance to steal talent, push out films + mass produce</p>
<p>1920s:</p> <p>Decade of Promise, optimism/hope</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- economy rising, wages + stock ↑</li> <li>- people can afford to buy things (credit)</li> <li>- New Woman / flappers <i>changing clothes + attitudes</i></li> <li>- Prohibition → mafia (Al Capone) → rise in arrests + drinking</li> <li>- play (dance marathons, baseball, movies, jazz)</li> <li>- people live life to fullest</li> <li>- assembly line</li> <li>- line blurs between rich + poor</li> </ul> <p>Backlash to change - <u>morals</u> (concern over bad behavior)</p>	<p>→ movie attendance skyrockets</p> <p>→ "Safety Last" desire to get rich → theaters lavish, ushers, gold trim, AC</p> <p>→ "It" film with Clara Bow scandals</p> <p>→ "Scarface" abt Tary Camonte, Chicago gangster → scandals in Hollywood</p> <p>Hollyw. movies made on an assembly line (Studio system)</p> <p>→ "Modern Times" work on assembly line</p> <p>→ Production Code, censorship + morality clauses</p>
<p>1930s</p> <p>Great Depression</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dust Bowl (60% of farmers lost farms)</li> <li>- parents desert kids at orphanages, can't provide for selves or family</li> <li>- people lose jobs (25% unemployed 1932)</li> <li>- evictions/lose houses</li> <li>- stock market crash (lost \$30 billion)</li> </ul>	<p>movie attendance fell some but still go (escape from probs, feel pampered w/ nice theaters)</p> <p><u>Escapism</u>: Shirley Temple films "Bright Eyes"</p> <p><u>Realism</u>: "Wizard of Oz" "Gold Rush" Charlie Chaplin eating shoe</p>

**Film and Society Essay**

Essay Assignment: Using information from class, write a well-organized essay which answers the following question:

*In what ways did the film industry reflect the culture of the early 1900s?*

ESSAY REQUIREMENTS:

- The essay should be an **analytical, 4 or 5 paragraph** essay. It should have an intro paragraph with argumentative thesis statement, specific historical & film examples in the body paragraphs, and a conclusion paragraph. (You need 6 pieces of evidence - you can choose to write 2 or 3 body paragraphs.)
  - You should have **at least one quote in each body paragraph.**
  - Evidence should come from the class notes, films & readings.
  - You need to cite your sources (either in a footnote or in parenthesis.)
- Length: 2+ pages, double-spaced, typed, 1-inch margins, font size 12. Please use TIMES NEW ROMAN or something comparable.

**Thesis statement & outline due:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Final essays due:** \_\_\_\_\_

Essay sources:

- “Early Film - Invention” class notes
- “Early Film - Short Films” class notes
- “Hollywood: A Celebration of Silent Film” notes
- “Early Film - Animation” class notes
- “How American film (Hollywood) Became Great” reading
- “The 1920s & 1930s in Film” class notes
- “The Influence of Hollywood & Growing Concerns” reading
- “Hollywood’s Scandals” class notes
- Censorship & Morality Clauses class notes