

1900-1950 World At War Project 50 Points

During this unit we learned about the significance of MASS CULTURE. We know that mass culture can manipulate us in to believing certain things (propaganda, Hitler, Mussolini, North Korea). It is important that we understand how to determine what is factual and what is not.

Objective: Determine the historical accuracy of a modern day film (mass culture) that covers one of the topics we discussed in class.

Process:

Step 1: Select film from list and your film team (maximum of three people)

Step 2: Watch film

Step 3: Analyze for historical accuracies & inaccuracies. Here are some things to consider...

- Characters portrayed including secondary characters
- Historical event (Accuracies of story, how storyline unfolds, what is emphasized and de-emphasized and why)
- Perspective portrayed: Is there a bias? (American, Western, Non-Western, Right/Left?)
- Technical aspects of film and how they portray the story (costumes, images used, dialogue, scenery, sound, et. Al)

Step 4: Make a list of facts or ideas to check and do research. Use credible resources to evaluate the facts and ideas.

Step 5: Assemble evidence and brainstorm on film's strengths and weaknesses given the historical evidence portrayed

Step 6: Write a review. Review of movie should be approximately 1000 words. It is suggested you use google docs to allow the group to collaborate on the review.

Step 7: Create powerpoint outlining the important aspects of your review. Include one section of video from your film.

Example:

Paragraph 1: Brief description of the film.

The Patriot (2000) takes place during the American Revolution. Benjamin Martin (Mel Gibson), a farmer in South Carolina, leads a colonial militia unit against the

British forces in hope to create a better life for his family when the war is over.

Paragraph 2: Historical aspects of the film that you analyzed

Was there really a hero like Benjamin Martin?

Did the rebels really defeat Cornwallis & the British at the Battle of Cowpens?

Is the film biased to show an anti-British perspective?

How accurate was the fighting in the film? Was the Revolutionary War really fought this way?

Paragraph 3: Research based findings

The costumes used were accurate. The film downplayed certain events while highlighting others.

Paragraph 4: Analysis of information... how historically accurate is the film?

The film is biased and goes to far in leaving out colonial atrocities while making sure to include British ones.

Ranking: How does the film rank in terms of historical accuracy? Come up with your own ranking system.

Movies:

Lusitania: Terror at Sea Sinking of the Lusitania (Youtube)

Fascism: The Wave (Netflix)

The Nanking Massacre: Flowers of War (Netflix)

Blitzkrieg, World War II: Flags of Our Fathers, Pearl Harbor, Saving Private Ryan, Letter from Iwo Jima

Holocaust: The Boy With Striped Pajamas (Netflix) The Pianist (Netflix)