**English 1301 Research Paper Checklist Guide**

1. **MLA FORMAT**
2. Full Header
3. Creative Title
4. Double-Spacing
5. 1 inch margins
6. Balanced Paragraphs
7. **Introduction**
8. Lead-In that generally introduces the subject of the paper.
9. Connection to film.
10. Summary of film (2-3 sentences).
11. Thesis statement that combines the

**Director’s name + Title + Value Word + Goal + Issue**

**Example:** Josh Fox’s 2010 film *Gasland* effectively educates the viewing public on the dangers of hydraulic fracturing.

***Make sure the title of the film is always in ITALICS.***

1. **Issues Paragraph**
2. You must introduce the issue.

--Make sure you have a simply stated **TOPIC.**

**Example:** As Fox explores in his film, the issue of hydraulic fracturing, or “fracking” is controversial because of the potential negative impact the process can have on the environment.

1. You must explain what the issue is—define key words.
2. You must summarize both sides of the issue.
3. You must include at LEAST 3 SHORT quotes from your research in order to back up your understanding of the issue.

What else might I include after my Topic Statement above?

* A definition of fracking, if I haven’t already covered that in my introduction.
* Statistics, like how where does fracking occur and how many people are affected by it.
* An overview of the positive attributes of fracking (economy, energy production, employment, etc.)
* An overview of the negative attributes of fracking (pollution, etc.)

1. **Critique Paragraphs-- #3 and #4**
2. Must have a simply stated **TOPIC.** The topic should contain a KEY WORD.

--Example: One of the highlights of the film *Gasland* is Fox’s use of **location and setting**; he takes viewers on a journey to different areas of the country and shows us **accounts** of people who have been personally affected by gas fracking.

--Example: Fox’s use of expert testimony and scientific evidence also adds great value to his film.

--Example: Fox effectively uses shock value to relay his message to his audience.

1. Must follow up your topic with at least **3 specific examples**. Your examples should also include at least **3 short quotes** from your film reviews.

--Example: For example, in one of the most memorable scenes of the film, viewers meet Mike Markham from Colorado, who demonstrates how the water from his faucet can easily be lit on fire. These “jolting images of flammable tap water” (Nelson, par. 1) successfully call into question the affects of hydraulic fracturing on groundwater pollution.

1. **Quotes:**
2. Make sure your quotes are not HANGING.
3. Make sure they are either **introduced:**

* As film critic Rob Nelson notes, Fox presents “jolting images of flammable tap water” (par. 1) to make the point that hydraulic fracturing pollutes groundwater.
* Or **blended:**

These “jolting images of flammable tap water” (Nelson, par. 1) successfully call into question the affects of hydraulic fracturing on groundwater pollution.

* Or set off as **an example:**

Fox uses shock value to call into question the affects of hydraulic fracturing on tap water: “With its jolting images of flammable tap water and chemically burned pets, New York theater-director-turned-documentarian [Josh Fox](http://www.villagevoice.com/related/to/Josh+Fox/)'s Sundance-feted shocker makes an irrefutable case against U.S. corporate "fracking" (Nelson, par. 1).

**Quotes should contain an author and page # or paragraph #. You always use page # (Jones 31) unless you don’t have one, then you use paragraph #.**

1. **Concessions Paragraph, #5**

* Now that you’ve praised what the film did well, critique what it could have done better.
* Use your key words: Logos, Pathos, Ethos
* In addition, locate fallacies; mention them by name, and explain what they are.

--In addition to the fallacies listed in your textbook and on Weebly, here is a link that has some more interesting ones: <http://utminers.utep.edu/omwilliamson/ENGL1311/fallacies.htm>

**Example:** While Fox uses logos, pathos, and ethos to present his case against hydraulic fracturing, it is fair to say that the film is stylistically lacking. Film critic Sam Turner notes, “some will find this style of documentary difficult to swallow,” (par. 3) and cites a scene in which “Fox exits his car… to play the banjo with a gas mask on in the middle of a field of natural gas drilling outposts” (par. 3). This type of over-the-top appeal to pathos is unnecessary, as the substance of Fox’s argument is already proven through his use of logos.

1. **The Conclusion**

* Be sure to relay the **VALUE** of the film. Does it reach its goals? Does it attract an audience? Who should see the film?
* **Update** readers on the most current status of the issue presented in the film. If your film introduces people, situations, legal battles, etc., then you need to do further research and update readers—what happened after the cameras stopped rolling?

If legislation is being considered, if there is a social movement toward the filmmaker’s cause, if there are follow up films or documentaries on the issue at hand, let readers know.

* **Call to action**: What should people do/how should people feel after watching the film? Again, you may point readers in the direction of watching other related films, signing petitions, taking specific steps to deal with the issue, etc.
* End with a strong concluding sentence. You might want to refer back to your title or lead-in, key words, etc. for impact.