

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Hour \_\_\_\_\_

## Television Show Analysis Worksheet

### Step 1. Pre-viewing

A. Title of show: \_\_\_\_\_

B. What do you think you will see in this motion picture? List three concepts or ideas that you might expect to see based on the title of the show. List some people you might expect to see based on the title of the show.

Concepts/Ideas

People

1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____

### Step 2. Viewing

A. Type of television show (check where applicable)

- Animated cartoon
- Situational comedy
- Drama
- Reality show
- Sports show
- Political show
- Talk show
- Other

B. Physical qualities of the television show (check where applicable)

- Music
- Narration
- Special effects
- Color
- Live action
- Background noise/sound effects
- Animation
- Applause/Laugh track

C. Note how camera angles, lighting, music, narration, and/or editing contribute to creating an atmosphere in this show. What is the mood or tone of the film and how do the producers use the above to create that mood?

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**Step 3. Post-viewing (or repeated viewing)**

A. What concepts/idea and/or people you listed in the previewing activity were validated by your viewing of the television show?

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B. How is gender constructed—are the male & female characters doing stereotypically gendered things? Are they doing atypical gendered things? Is there any character that breaks with the traditional gender roles? Use specific examples from the show to illustrate your point.

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C. To what extent is the television show realistic? Do the characters have real emotions — and a full range of emotions? Do the characters look and act like real people or like models/pin-ups? Do the characters ever do “real” things like go to the bathroom or get dirty? Use specific examples from the show to illustrate your point.

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D. What presumptions of race and/or class are in the television show? Are the characters doing things or finding themselves in situations that are stereotypical to their race/class? Are the characters doing things or put in situations that are presumed not typical to their race/class? Use specific examples from the show to illustrate your point.

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E. How do you think the television show producers wanted the audience to respond?

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F. Does this television show appeal to the viewer's reason or emotion? How does it make you feel?

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G. List two things this television show tells you about life in the United States at the time it was made:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

H. Write a question to the television producers left unanswered by the television show.

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What information do you gain about this time period that would not be conveyed by a written source? Be specific.

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This analysis worksheet is an adaptation of the *Movie Analysis worksheet* designed and developed the Education Staff, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408 and *Ten Television Analysis Writing Projects* by Traci Gardner at <http://www.tengrrl.com/tens/022.shtml>

Adaptations made by Karen Klebbe for American History Teachers' Collaborative 2006