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.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concepts/Ideas</th>
<th>People</th>
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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?

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.

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.

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.

E. How do you think the television show producers wanted the audience to respond?
F. Does this television show appeal to the viewer’s reason or emotion? How does it make you feel?

__________________________________________

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.

__________________________________________________________________________

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

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

This analysis worksheet is an adaptation of the Movie Analysis worksheet designed and developed by 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