# Textual Analysis Opening

Elements, Format and Structure

#### **Exemplar Used:**

http://xmltwo.ibo.org/publications/DP/Group6/d 6 filmx gui 1702 1/samples/film dp example 27 e.pdf

#### **Examiner Comments:**

http://xmltwo.ibo.org/publications/DP/Group6/d 6 filmx gui 1702 1/samples/dp comm 27 e.pdf

#### First Page

Textual Analysis Film: Do The Right Thing (1989)

Director: Spike Lee

Sequence Running Time: 00:50:55 - 00:55:55

Word Count: 1745

In this paper I will analyze an extract from Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing* (1989) that reflects the political, geographical, social, and economical situations through Lee's stylistic use of cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, and sound to communicate the dynamics of the characters in the cultural melting pot that is Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn in New York City. This extract manifests Lee's artistic visions that are prevalent in the film and are contemplative of Lee's personal experience of growing up in Brooklyn. "This evenhandedness that is at the center of Spike Lee's work" (Ebert) is evident through Lee's techniques and the equal attention given to the residents of this neighborhood to present a social realism cinema. Released almost thirty years ago, Lee's film continues to empower the need for social change today with the Black Lives Matter movement and was even called "culturally significant' by the U.S. Library of Congress" (History).

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### Heading

Textual Analysis Film: Do The Right Thing (1989)

Film Title & Year

Director: Spike Lee

**Director Name** 

Sequence Running Time: 00:50:55 - 00:55:55

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**Word Count** 

5 Min Extract Run Tim: Start -- End

Upper Left Corner 12pt Ariel (Sans Serif) Single Spaced Double spaced after word count to begin your Textual Analysis manuscript

### Elements to Include: Opening

- Opening Paragraph
  - Film title, year, director, country
  - Announcement of Cultural Context elements
  - Announcement of Film Elements
  - Element's Purpose or Thematic Connection
  - Justification for Extract Selection
  - Film's Cultural/Historical/Cinematic Relevance

### Opening Paragraph

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#### OP: Film, Director, Year Announcement

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#### OP: Cultural Context Announcement

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#### OP: Film Elements Announcement

In this paper I will analyze an extract from Spike Lee's Do The Right Thing (1989) that reflects the political, geographical, social, and economical situations through Lee's stylistic use of cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, and sound to communicate the dynamics of the characters in the cultural melting pot that is Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn in New York City. This extract manifests Lee's artistic visions that are prevalent in the film and are contemplative of Lee's personal experience of growing up in Brooklyn. "This evenhandedness that is at the center of Spike Lee's work" (Ebert) is evident through Lee's techniques and the equal attention given to the residents of this neighborhood to present a social realism cinema. Released almost thirty years ago, Lee's film continues to empower the need for social change today with the Black Lives Matter movement and was even called "culturally significant' by the U.S. Library of Congress" (History).

## OP: Film Elements' Purpose / Thematic Connection

In this paper I will analyze an extract from Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing* (1989) that reflects the political, geographical, social, and economical situations through Lee's stylistic use of cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, and sound to communicate the dynamics of the characters in the cultural melting pot that is Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn in New York City.

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#### OP: Justification for Extract Selection

In this paper I will analyze an extract from Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing* (1989) that reflects the political, geographical, social, and economical situations through Lee's stylistic use of cinematography, mise-en-scène, editing, and sound to communicate the dynamics of the characters in the cultural melting pot that is Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn in New York City.

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### OP: Film's Cultural/Historical/Cinematic Relevance

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Lay the foundation upon which you will provide context to your film elements analysis

CC Overview should be 1-2 paragraphs in length

Connect the film's given circumstances to the place/time during which the film was made

Discuss the specific CC elements that touch upon the place/time during which the film was made

Provide elements of INQUIRY by including researched support

Use in text citations

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Do The Right Thing takes place during the late 1980s in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn and unravels the "bigotry and violence" (Lee) in the neighborhood of a single summer day, specifically one of the hottest of the season. Being extremely socially conscious, Do The Right Thing illustrates the dangers of racism against African Americans and was motivated by injustices of the time--especially in New York--such as the death of Yusef Hawkins and the Howard Beach racial incident. Lee uses the narrative and character dynamics of the film to "recall the colonial aspects of a ghetto existence and the external constructions of blackness that circumscribe community and individual potential" (Hanson). Do The Right Thing juggles influences of Martin Luther King's belief in nonviolence and Malcolm X's support of nonviolence so long as it is effective, and leaves the viewer with the freedom to assess their beliefs respectively. The importance of the film is its unwavering portrayal of the complexity of strained racial tensions and its relevance today with movements like "Black Lives Matter". The segment chosen shows Radio Raheem with his symbol rings of "love and "hate", the altercation between Raheem and Sal in the pizzeria, and Mookie going home for a quick shower. This segment is important as it encompasses Lee's film direction and portrays the racism he focuses on communicating.

Film's General Setting (Time/Place)

Do The Right Thing takes place during the late 1980s in Bed-Stuy, Brooklyn and unravels the "bigotry and violence" (Lee) in the neighborhood of a single summer day, specifically one of the hottest of the season. Being extremely socially conscious, Do The Right Thing illustrates the dangers of racism against African Americans and was motivated by injustices of the time--especially in New York--such as the death of Yusef Hawkins and the Howard Beach racial incident. Lee uses the narrative and character dynamics of the film to "recall the colonial aspects of a ghetto existence and the external constructions of blackness that circumscribe community and individual potential" (Hanson). Do The Right Thing juggles influences of Martin Luther King's belief in nonviolence and Malcolm X's support of nonviolence so long as it is effective, and leaves the viewer with the freedom to assess their beliefs respectively. The importance of the film is its unwavering portrayal of the complexity of strained racial tensions and its relevance today with movements like "Black Lives Matter". The segment chosen shows Radio Raheem with his symbol rings of "love and "hate", the altercation between Raheem and Sal in the pizzeria, and Mookie going home for a quick shower. This segment is important as it encompasses Lee's film direction and portrays the racism he focuses on communicating.

Film's Connection to SOCIAL CC Element

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Social/Geographical CC Example (Researched w/citation)

time--especially in New York--such as the death of Yusef Hawkins and the Howard Beach racial incident. Lee uses the narrative and character dynamics of the film to "recall the colonial aspects of a ghetto existence and the external constructions of blackness that circumscribe community and individual potential" (Hanson). Do The Right Thing juggles influences of Martin Luther

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Film's Connection to Social/Political CC Element

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Transition to the FE analysis and connections with a brief description of the sequence

#### Works Cited

#### **MLA Format**

Only include works you have cited within the manuscript

Full Citation (not just URLs)

Alphabetized

Titles in Italics

Indent after first full line

#### Works Cited

- Biography.com Editors. "Spike Lee Biography." *Biography*, A&E Television Networks, 2 Apr. 2014, www.biography.com/people/spike-lee-9377207. Accessed 7 Nov. 2018.
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- Do the Right Thing: Crash Course Film Criticism #6. Produced by PBS Digital Studios, directed by Nicholas Jenkins and Nicole Sweeney, screenplay by Tobin Addington, CrashCourse, 2018. Youtube, www.youtube.com/watch?v=bZBmOd83Fds&t=613s. Accessed 7 Nov. 2018.
- Ebert, Roger. "Do The Right Thing." The Criterion Collection, 20 Feb. 2001, www.criterion.com/current/posts/98-do-the-right-thing. Accessed 7 Nov. 2018.
- Erbland, Kate. "Spike Lee Shares How a Love of Connery's Bond and Bruce Lee Made Him Realize 'People Have to Tell Their Own Stories'." *IndieWire*, 16 Oct. 2018, www.indiewire.com/2018/10/spike-lee-cinematic-influences-diversity-1202012397/.

  Accessed 7 Nov. 2018.

#### Remember to:

- Have a clear opening paragraph that includes every element previously mentioned
- Present the Cultural Context elements, connecting them to the given circumstances and the time/place during which the film was made
- Connect the Cultural Context elements to the filmmaker intent by incorporating researched sources
- Tie the Cultural Context and Filmmaker Intent to the overall theme identified in the opening paragraph

Once you do that, you can begin the Film Elements analysis and making their connection to the Cultural Context elements previously covered.

Use the IB exemplars provided on the IB website to help you better understand the task and to serve as models of what to do and what not to do.

Make sure you look at the examiner feedback for each exemplar, since all of them are not "perfect" papers. Some are very good, but others have significant issues.

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