**Textual Analysis**  
The Presentation is ALL about textual analysis. The text, of course, being the film itself.  
  
Textual analysis of film requires observing and questioning all the elements that create meaning within the piece, such as acting, directing, lighting, cinematography, mise-en-scene, and more. Besides noticing the individual elements that create a film’s meaning, textual analysis also involves understanding how the film fits into the larger context of its social, historical, cultural and political environment. So textual analysis also requires researching a film’s genre, audience, and its historical, institutional, and socio-cultural significance. It’s only in combining all of these elements that we can create a thorough understanding of the film.  
  
For the oral exam, HL students are expected to complete a 15 minute presentation (10 minutes for SL) that addresses these two areas of focus:  
1. Analyse and Research the film as a whole focusing on the film’s genre and audience as well as its historical, institutional, and socio-cultural significance.  
2. Complete a close textual analysis of a specific scene. Be sure to cite specific examples from within the film that relate to its larger frame work.  
  
**Getting Started:**  
1. Preview the questions for each of the sections below that address the areas that must be included in the presentations.  
2. Watch your film and then focus on what you think is important about the film. As you take notes on the film, refer back to the questions. Be conscious of the many aspects within the film that create meaning.  
3. Focus on one scene that seems to really illustrate your interpretation of the film. Try creating a Quicktime clip of the scene to be used in your presentation. You should not watch these films on the internet through streaming as quality is very poor. Buy or download the movie.  
4. Begin your research and take notes in order to explore areas of genre, history, institutional and socio-cultural context as they relate to your selected film. Please cite your research in order to show where your information came from.  
  
  
**Research and Analysis: Areas to be Covered in your Presentations**  
  
**Part 1 – Background and Context**  
**I. Genre and Audience**  
Consider the historical context of the style and genre as well as factors that shaped the directors decisions. Other films, novels, or artistic genres that were referenced in the film should be considered.  
1. What tradition or genre is it part of?  
2. What are the features determining genre?  
3. What other work might it be connected to?  
4. Who made this? Why?  
5. What can we tell about its’ creators?  
6. How does it fit within the director’s other work?  
a. Does it share significant narrative or thematic concerns?  
b. Does it share particular visual or technical elements?  
7. What is the film’s theme?  
8. What is the target audience? How does it address its audience?  
  
**II. Historical and Institutional Factors**  
Consider the film as a text that is part of the industry of critics, and awards.  
1. What do we learn about the film in relation to the body of critical reviews that surround the film as well as the awards and special recognition the film has received.  
2. What evidence do you find in the film's financial/economic to the film's success?  
3. What are the institutional factors that may be important?  
a. As a production of a specific producer (eg Walt Disney)?  
b. As a production of a specific institution (eg Disney Studios)?  
c. Any specific economic factors (independent or studio film)?  
d. Is there a political background? (eg U.S. politics in 1959)  
4. What is the film’s historical significance?  
a. as a document of its time?  
b. as a part of history of film?  
  
**III. Socio-cultural context**  
Explore what the film says about it's country of origin and the artists who made it.  
1. What do the film's themes say about the culture it's part of?  
2. What is the film's geographical and historical context?  
3. Where does it fall in the evolution of the genre?  
4. What is the film’s socio-cultural context? So, what does this film say about the world?  
a. What does it say about the society it takes place in?  
b. What does it say about the culture it takes place in?  
c. What does it say about the time period it takes place in?  
d. How does it fit the context of the specific country it was made in?  
e. Was it made for a specific audience?  
f. Was it made for a specific reason?  
g. Were there any social factors that influenced the film?  
h. Were there any cultural factors that influenced the film?  
5. Has the film changed through time?  
a. Do audiences react differently to the film now as opposed to when it was released?  
b. If so, why? If not, why?  
  
  
**Part 2 – Focused Analysis**  
**IV. Narrative**  
1. How is this film constructed according to narrative/story being told?  
2. Is the narrative organized by plot or time sequence, or some other way?  
3. Does the film use other principles than narrative sequence as a structure (for instance, an argument?  
4. What is the nature of our engagement with the story or characters?  
  
**V. Film Language and Representation**  
1. How are characters and issues represented?  
2. What is the style and effect of acting and performance?  
3. How is meaning created by the camera?  
a. camera angles?  
b. camera shots?  
c. camera movement?  
4. How is meaning created through use of space (proxemics) and staging?  
5. How is meaning created by editing and sequencing?  
6. How is meaning created by lighting, shade and color?  
7. How is meaning created by sound and music?  
8. How is meaning created by location, set design and mise-en-scene.?  
9. Does the film make use of symbols, metaphors, or allegories? If relevant, explain what they are and how do they work within the context of the film?  
10. How is meaning created by technical elements such as production design, special effects (matte paintings, models, animation, computer generated images etc.)  
11. What emotional information is conveyed through the filmmaking process?  
  
  
[MORE ON TEXTUAL ANALYSIS](http://akfilmstudies.wikispaces.com/MORE+ON+TEXTUAL+ANALYSIS)  
  
[MORE ON EVALUATING FILM PRODUCTIONS](http://akfilmstudies.wikispaces.com/MORE+ON+EVALUATING+FILM+PRODUCTIONS)  
  
  
**Structure of the Oral Presentation - HL**  
It is important to have a clear and focused structure to your presentation. If you just ramble on about the clip and jump from one component to the next, your work will suffer as a result. By careful planning and by practising going through your presentation multiple times you will formulate a clear and logical structure that enables you to include all the key components without rushing or leaving anything out.  
  
Please not that these two options below are just that - they are options. Please feel free to create your own individual structure. It is important to find a style that works for YOU. Just make sure you include all the key elements (as outlined in the documents above) and make sure you talk for as much of the 15 minutes as possible, without going over of course.  
  
  
**OPTION 1**  
**1.** **Opening Remarks (0:30)**  
a. Name of film, director, year etc  
**2.** **Context (2:00)**  
a. Place the film  
i. As part of the director’s work  
ii. Time when Made (historical, socio-cultural etc)  
iii. Relation to other films  
b. Place the extract  
i. Position in plot  
ii. Foreshadowing  
iii. Thematic Threads  
**3.** **Setting, Acting, Costume, Props (1:30)**  
a. Visual Style  
b. Actors  
c. Production Design/Set Design  
**4.** **Cinematography and Lighting (2:30)**  
a. Style: realistic/formalistic/stylised  
b. Angles, Framing, Lens Choice  
c. Camera placement and actor blocking  
d. Dominant Imagery/symbolism/Colour  
e. Camera Distance/Space/Staging/Territory,  
f. Lighting  
**5.** **Editing (2:00)**  
a. Style  
b. Manipulations of time and speed  
c. Length of cuts and pacing  
d. Narrative techniques such as flashbacks/forwards, parallel action  
e. Montage or Visual Metaphor  
f. Types of fades and cuts  
**6.** **Score (1:00)**  
a. Style  
b. Repeated Motifs  
c. Foley or FX  
d. Diegetic/non-diegetic (aka synchronous/nonsynchronous)  
**7.** **Script (1:00)**  
a. Narrative Structure/Style  
b. Character Driven vs Plot Driven  
c. Nature of Dialogue  
d. Use of humour, subtext or irony  
e. Message  
**8.** **Genre (1:30)**  
a. Features determining genre  
b. How extract meets genre  
c. How extract subverts genre – if at all  
**9.** **Business and Criticism (1:30)**  
a. How well was the film received by critics at the time?  
b. How well is the film received by critics now?  
c. How successful was the film financially? At the time of release?  
d. Subsequently?  
**10.** **Rationale (0:30)**  
a. Why I selected this extract  
**11.** **Closing Remarks (0:30)**  
  
  
**OPTION 2**  
**1.** **Context in film (2:00)**  
a. “I selected this section for the following reasons…”  
b. Explain how the extract relates to the rest of the film narrative and to the structure of the film as a whole.  
**2.** **Analysis (7:30)**  
a. “My view of the director’s intent is…”  
b. Detailed analysis and support of your statement above by looking at:  
i. Mise-en scene  
ii. Framing  
iii. Composition  
iv. Shot choices and camera angles  
v. Lighting  
vi. Costume/Make-Up/Prop choices  
vii. Presentation of time  
viii. Shot length and movement  
ix. Space and staging  
x. Acting/Characterisation choices  
xi. Editing choices – cuts, fades etc  
xii. Visual symbolism  
xiii. Script/dialogue  
xiv. Use of Narrative and structure  
xv. Sound, score and foley  
xvi. and whatever else is significant…  
**3.** **Context in History/Genre (4:30)**  
a. Explanation of the extract’s significance in terms of:  
i. Genre  
ii. Target audience  
iii. Film history  
iv. Socio-cultural significance  
v. Institutional factors  
vi. Critical reception  
vii. Financial success  
viii. and whatever else is significant…  
**4.** **Final Summary and conclusion (1:00)**  
a. Reinforce key points and reasons for you choice of extract

**General Tips**

* DO NOT do a shot by shot breakdown of the extract, but instead group comments into sections as outlined in both models above.
* Always use FILM LANGUAGE
* Avoid Repetition
* Make sure to explain how meaning is created in the film through film language.
* Do NOT talk for more than 15 minutes. You WILL be penalised!
* But do not talk for much less than 15 minutes - otherwise you will have left too much out!
* Make sure you refer to director’s intention
* Consolidate your evaluative interpretation into a focused oral paragraph for each section
* NEVER have the first time you present your oral presentation be the real thing in front of your teacher. Practise practise practise! Record yourself on a computer and listen back to make sure you are speaking clearly, to make sure that you are talking about every aspect of the extract, and to make sure your timing is perfect!
* Relax.

CHECKLIST: **PRESENTATON**  
**-**Has the student watched their film **several times** as part of their primary research?  
-Has the student look for research materials – **film history** and **cultural significance** – as well as doing their own**analytical observation**?  
-Can the student explain why they have chosen the **5 minute (or less) extract**?  
-Can the student demonstrate an **excellent awareness** of their 5 minute extract’s **relationship to the film as a whole**?  
-Is the extract the best possible selection to show the student’s view of the film and how **meaning** is **constructed** in it through **film language**?  
-How is the extract related to the **film** **as a whole**?  
-Has the student used the extract to examine **film language** and it’s use in the film’s **mise-en-scene** and **production design/**the**shot design** and **composition/ lighting/editing/digetic** and **non-digetic sound/narrative/symbolism/iconograpy . . .** and whatever other elements are significant for this particular film?  
-Has the student used the extract to discuss or analyze the **director’s intent**?  
-Has the student correctly placed the film in the context of **history**, either **film history** or **genre history**?  
-Has the student the film within a broader **sociocultural context**?  
-Has the student kept description of the film’s plot to a minimum, while focusing on **analysis**?  
-Has the student considered the film’s **target audience**?  
-Has the student brought **cue cards** for the presentation?(***Note: the student must not read the Presentation. Centers where students are suspected of reading will be investigated for malpractice. Cards with cue notes are appropriate, but the teacher supervising the Presentation must make sure the student does not bring extensive notes into the assessment.)***  
- Has the student brought their **list of sources** so that they can complete the cover sheet?

**AT HIGHER LEVEL**  
Has the student found **‘examples of responses from audiences and reviewers, critics or scholars at the time of the original release and/or subsequently,’** and have these samples been **discussed** as part of the presentation?  
  
  
  
**Examples of Presentations**  
Review [the IB Support Site](http://xmltwo.ibo.org/publications/migrated/production-app.ibo.org/publication/81/part/1/chapter/1.html) for details and samples of student work. This is an excellent resource as it not only includes examples of students work, but it also includes the grades they were given. Have a listen to some of the presentations and grade them as you go. DId your mark end up being the same or similar to the examiners mark? If so, you are on the right lines. If not, there must be something you are not quite understanding. What is it? How could you gain a greater understanding of this assessment task? If you cannot answer these questions after some careful independent thinking, come and speak to me about it and we can work it out together.