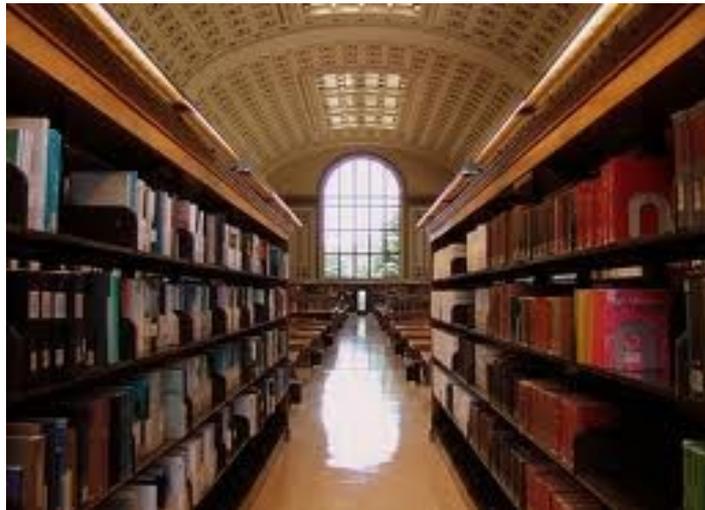


College Writing 101

Making an Evaluation



Making an Evaluation

- I Evaluating Mythopolis – short film
- II Lecture: Making an Evaluation (NFG)
- III Class Activity – View *The Wonder of Film*
- IV Class Discussion: *Student's Essay on Juno*
- V *Conclusion*

Making an Evaluation

Evaluations

- An evaluation is at bottom a **judgment**;
- You judge something according to certain **criteria**, supporting your judgment with reasons and evidence

Making an Evaluation

- Consumer Reports evaluates cell phones, televisions, cars etc.
- US News and World Report evaluate colleges and universities.
- Food Critics evaluate the best restaurants and
- We consult sources like these to make decisions

Making an Evaluation

We make evaluations in our daily lives:

- *what restaurant to go to*
- *what movie to see*
- *what teachers to take*
- *etc etc etc*

Making an Evaluation

Read & Review *student's essay on Juno* – (pps 197-205)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvxQgRnd3h0>
- What were some of the things that you noticed about Heinekamp's essay?

Making an Evaluation

Key Features of Evaluations –

- **A Concise Description of the subject:** Include just enough information to let readers who may not be familiar with your subject understand what it is; **the goal is to evaluate, not summarize.**

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- Heinekamp **briefly describes *Juno's*** main plot points in her first paragraph only providing what readers need to understand the context of her evaluation.

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It all starts with a chair, where Juno (Ellen Page) has unprotected sex with her best friend Bleeker (Michael Cera). Several weeks later, she's at a convenience store, buying a pregnancy test. Only sixteen, Juno faces the terrifying task of telling her parents that she is pregnant. With their support, Juno moves forward in her decision to give birth and give the child to

Making an Evaluation

Mark (Jason Bateman) and Vanessa (Jennifer Garner), a wealthy and seemingly perfect married couple looking to adopt. **Although the situations *Juno's* characters find themselves in and their dialogue may be criticized as unrealistic, the film written by Diablo Cody and directed by Jason Reitman, successfully portrays the emotions of a teen being shoved into reality way too fast.**

Making an Evaluation

- **Clearly Defined Criteria:**
You need to **determine clear criteria** as the basis for your judgment. In more formal evaluations, you may need to announce your criteria explicitly.
- Heinekamp evaluates *Juno* based on the power of its emotion and the realism of its situations, characters and dialogue

Making an Evaluation

- **A Knowledgeable**

Discussion of the Subject:

To evaluate something credibly, you need to show that you know it yourself and that you have researched what other authoritative sources say.

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- Heinekamp cites many examples from *Juno*, showing her knowledge of the film.
- She also cites reviews from three internet resources, showing that she has researched others' views as well.

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- **A Balanced and Fair Assessment:**
An evaluation is centered on a judgment. It is important that any judgment be balanced and fair. Seldom is something all good or all bad. **A fair evaluation may acknowledge both strengths and weaknesses.**

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- Heinekamp concedes that Juno's situations and dialogue are unrealistic, but she says it nevertheless "reaches depths of emotions that are unusual for teenage comedies."

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- **Well Supported Reasons:**
You need to argue for your judgment, providing reasons and evidence.
- Heinekamp gives several reasons for her positive assessment of *Juno* -

Making an Evaluation

- Believability of its characters
- Intensely emotional scenes
- The strength of the main character as a role model – Her reasons are supported with many quotations and examples from the film

The Wonder of Film

The Wonder of Film:

- https://www.ted.com/talks/beebean_kidron_the_shared_wonder_of_film?referrer=playlist-the_power_of_film

The Wonder of Film

On Film Analysis:

- <https://courses.lumenlearning.com/introliterature/chapter/how-to-analyze-a-film/>

Making an Evaluation

Writing an Evaluation:

- You can more effectively evaluate a limited subject than a broad one, One film in the Bond's series rather than a series of Bond films"...
- The more specific and focused your subject, the better you can write about it.

Making an Evaluation

- Consider the Rhetorical Situation (NFG):
 - Purpose
 - Audience
 - Stance
 - Media/Design

Making an Evaluation

- **Organizing an Evaluation:
(NFG)**
- **Start with your Subject**
- **Start with your Criteria**

Making an Evaluation

How Summarizing helps:

- Summarizing a text helps us to see the relationships among its ideas and to understand what it is saying.
- When you summarize, you restate the text's main idea in your own words, leaving out most examples and other details

Making an Evaluation

- **Conclusion:**