

Die Hard - Released in 1988. This action feature was written by Steven E. de Souza & Jeb Stuart and directed by John McTiernan. Die Hard follows a New York City policeman visiting his estranged wife and two daughters on Christmas Eve. He joins her at a holiday party, but the festivities are interrupted by a group of terrorists who take over the building and everyone in it.

Notes:

- Die Hard has broken the standard for classic 80s action films
- John McClane is not your normal “steroidal superman”
 - He is a normal guy, somewhat of an asshole
- Film is set-up like a romantic comedy; if you only watched the first ten minutes, that is probably the genre you would place this film under and I think that’s brilliant.
- Die Hard’s foreshadowing is textbook perfect.
 - Man that McClane meets on the airplane tells him to take off his shoes and make fists with his toes once they land. That scene was there for a reason. When McClane arrives at the hotel, he takes his shoes off and does it. Little does he know, the terrorists take control at the same time and he has to survive the rest of the film with no shoes on.
 - watch
- McClane’s character is set up in the first few minutes as someone who is kind of grump, he’s grumpy with his limo driver, then he is grumpy with partygoers and then his wife.
- McClane is NYPD and he wants to be NYPD. He can’t accept the fact that his wife’s career is taking off or that she uses her maiden name, etc.
- He is grump, kind of an asshole, to his wife when they first reunite and he does realize that. Just before he goes to apologize, he doesn’t get that chance to become some terrorists who show up which, in turn, bring out the best in him. I think that makes this film so special.
- John is just an ordinary guy in an extraordinary situation. Of course the chances of something like this are extremely slim but they aren’t zero, and that’s what makes this film so good. An action movie that is actually realistic and is so good. While John is a normal person and does freak out throughout the night, as a police officer, he has the training to (somewhat) put that fear aside and guide his actions with determination to save his wife.
- Another element that builds to the realistic nature of this film is the fact that the entire film takes place in one building, in one night. We understand the sense of urgency and stake right away.
- Another amazing element of this film is the characters;
 - Such a great array of minor characters

- Hans Gruber, one of the greatest villains in cinematic history, is impossible to root for. Within minutes of watching, you hate his guts.
- Die Hard forever changed the genre of action. It proved that you don't need inhuman & buff protagonists or an immense amount of CGI. Die Hard brought action cinema back to Earth and it did it masterfully.

1.Introduction

- fundamental information about the movie, like the film title, release date, and director's name. In other words, the reader should get familiar with some background information about the film.
- research the filmmaker (reveal significant insights related to the movie)
- central theme or ideas in the movie, explaining the reason why it was made.
- express your point of view.
- thesis statement and basically, explain what will be your focus: Die Hard is one of the greatest action films ever made.

Themes: Masculinity, Greed, Love & Competition of Cleverness

2.Summary

After presenting the main facts about the film -

Don't leave out the following because you should always imagine that your audience has never seen the film =

- five Ws – who, what, when, where, why, and how, as well.
- discuss anything related to my opinion, structure or style.
- support anything you say with examples or quotes from the film itself

3.Analysis

“This is the core of your essay that involves your critical analysis of the film and impressions about it but supported by claims from the movie or any other relevant material.”

Consider the following in your analysis =

- *Scenario*

Logical sequence of events, completion of scenes, characters development, and dialogs. So, these are the elements you should analyze when it comes to the scenario.

- reproduce the plot mentally and see the logic of events and the motives of the actors. If it's difficult to explain or find reasons for some scenes, then it isn't such a great scenario.
- *Directing*

The director is responsible for every aspect of the movie process, such as scenario execution, selection of the plans, and even tasks for actors.

- focus on the fact how the director realized the script or compare this film to his other films. It will help you understand better his way of directing and come up to some conclusions relevant to your thesis and analysis.
- *Acting*

Casting is another significant element to take into consideration in film analysis essays. Actors bring the script and director's idea into reality.

- think if the actors are realistic and if they portray the role of their character effectively? More importantly, consider how their acting corresponds to the main idea of the film and your thesis statement.
- *Musical elements*

This represents an important element of every movie. It sets the mood and enhances some actions or sceneries of the film.

- evaluate how music reflects the mood of the film or the impact it has on what is happening on the screen. Is it supportive or distracting?
- *Visual elements*

Visual elements, like special effects, costumes, and make-up, also have a considerable role in the overall movie impact. They need to reflect the atmosphere of the film. It is especially important for historical movies because visual elements need to evoke a specific era.

- pay attention to costumes and special effects and analyse their impact on the film.
- analyse only the elements that are related to your thesis statement, that can support it or help you make your point.