# Miss HIV Film Review

This week, the documentary film being presented compares two different approaches to HIV and AIDS prevention in two different countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.  The film review will be scored with a rubric.  There are 5 points that can be earned and will be added to the discussion board assignment for this week.  Extra credit is due on Sunday - no late submissions will be accepted and the submission will be run through TurnItIn to check for originality in writing.

Elements of the Film Review

The strongest film reviews will include some current data to characterize the global health problem being addressed by the film. This information should come from the course lectures and/or textbook.  The current explanation of the global health problem could be included in the introduction, throughout the analysis, and/or in the conclusion.  Word count is 500-750 words.

For this assignment, we will expect to see an introduction, some body paragraphs (with examples to support your analysis), and a conclusion:

1. **Introduction** - In the opening of your review, provide some basic information about the film and the global health problem being addressed.. You may include film’s name, year, director, screenwriter, and major actors or characters. Your introduction, which may be longer than one paragraph, should also begin to evaluate the film, and it should allude to the central concept of the review.  A film review should contain a thesis or main claim, or it could focus on a central point in your analysis and assessment.
2. **Plot Summary** - Remember that many readers of film reviews have not yet seen the film. While you want to provide some plot summary, keep this brief and avoid specific details that would spoil the viewing for others. You may want to include this in the introduction or as a separate paragraph to open up into the analysis.
3. **Analysis** - In order to evaluate the film, consider how well the film utilizes formal techniques and thematic content to illustrate the key elements of this course in global health. How do the film’s formal techniques (such as cinematography, editing, lighting, diegetic and  sound, genre, or narrative) affect the way the film looks, feels, and sounds to you? How does the thematic content (such as history, race, gender, sexuality, class, or the environment) affect your experience and interpretation of global health?  Make sure to integrate course content with the film.
4. **Conclusion/Evaluation** - The closing of your film review should remind the reader of your general thoughts and impressions of the film. You may also implicitly or explicitly state whether or not you recommend the film. Make sure to remind the reader of why the film is or is not worth seeing.

How to Prepare and Organize Notes for the Film Review

1. **Review all the lecture materials and read the Global Health 101 Textbook before watching the film.** The films have been selected for the module because the concepts being taught in the module are the focus of the film analysis.  If you watch the film without reviewing the lectures or textbook, then you may need to re-watch the film.  It will be counterproductive to skip over the module lectures and readings if you jump to the film first.
2. **Review all the elements expected in a film review (see below).** The notes you take while watching the film should help you include all the key elements expected in the review.  Those are listed in the following section on this page - see below.
3. **Give yourself enough time to rewatch the film.**It's completely expected that you may need to go back and review the film for accuracy and comprehension.  So give yourself enough time to watch the film - don't put this assignment off until the last minute.  During the ***first viewing,****surrender yourself to the cinematic experience*; in other words, get lost in the narrative and enjoy the film without worrying about the argument you will eventually cultivate. During your ***second viewing****, try distancing yourself from the plot and instead focus on interesting elements of the film that you can highlight in the review.*You may separate these elements into ***two broad categories***: 1) formal techniques such as cinematography, editing, lighting,  sound, genre, or narratology, and 2) thematic content that resonates with issues such as global health, history, race, gender, sexuality, class, or the environment.
   * + **Formal Techniques: after watching the film, evaluate the cinematography/ technical elements.**Were there any special effects used (like animation) or was the film edited with news clips or interviews.  Then, evaluate whether or not the approach the director took in 'telling the story' was helpful or harmful to the goal of teaching the audience about the global health concept.  How do the cinematography, editing, lighting, sound, and other components support or detract from the film? Is music appropriate and effectively employed? You needn’t know film-technology jargon to share your thoughts about how these elements contributed to or detracted from the whole.
     + **Thematic Content: write down key definitions and concepts before watching the film and take notes of examples from the films as they align with the concept definitions.**It is recommended that you get a piece of paper and write down the definitions, then keep notes While watching the film, write down notes on your paper.  Types of notes might include:
       - * key characters / people who may illustrate the issues faced by the global health concepts
         * scenes from the films that may illustrate the key concepts
4. **Talk or chat to your classmates about the film.**If you know someone in class, give them a call and talk to them about the film.  As always, you can reach out to me or your TAs as well!  Or, you can post in the main class discussion board ([Students helping Students](https://uab.instructure.com/courses/1531083/discussion_topics/6889132)) or in the group discussion board to create new threads and discussions to elicit questions or chat from the class.  If you have a roommate or partner, watch the film with them and talk about the elements. As always, be respectful of everyone's opinion.  Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and talking through contrasting opinions can help us strengthen our own thoughts around topics.

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