**Film History Group Project**

Before we get into our analysis of how films are made, how they tell stories, and how filmmakers create meaning, it is important to have a understanding of (and hopefully an appreciation for) film’s history. Since its early days in the 1880s, film has gone on to have a unique social influence, has led to the development of several technologies, and has entertained vast numbers of people across the planet.

In order to discover these historically important events, you will work in a small group to research and make a PowerPoint for one decade in film history. You can divide the work as you want, but you must include the following information:

1) Four important actors and four important actresses from your decade.

2) Four more influential filmmakers – directors, producers, composers, editors, choreographers, costume designers, production designers, etc…….anyone who worked “behind the scenes”.

3) List and discuss the top five films from your decade.

4) The top two film genres of your decade with a description of them and why they were popular.

5) Four important developments in moving-image technology that happened during your decade. Consider the following: the types of cameras that filmmakers used, the size of the screen (such as drive-ins, Panavision, and widescreen), color techniques, the use of sound, the creation of special effects, film stock and sizes, and digital technology.

6) A Works Cited page.

You will have two class periods to work on and complete this project; in addition, you will need to work on this outside of class. Each group member needs to contribute research, and each member should also find and use may images (pictures, charts, graphs, posters, etc.) for inclusion in the PowerPoint.

The groups that research the ‘30s, ‘40s, ‘50s, and ‘60s will present on Monday, September 15, and the groups that research the ‘70s, ‘80s, ‘90s, and 2000s will present on Tuesday, September 16.

* This is a lot of work. Stay focused and work diligently.
* Save and share all of your information. Do not let the fact that one of your group mates is absent keep you from completing or presenting this project.
* Do not clutter up your slides with too much text. Break large chunks of information down and spread it over a few slides.

**Conducting Research** Where can you find information about moving-image technology? Two starting points are:

1) The American Widescreen Museum Website --- [www.widescreenmuseum.com](http://www.widescreenmuseum.com)

This site has information on screen size, sound, and color development.

2) The Motion Picture and Television Reading Room --- [www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/](http://www.loc.gov/rr/mopic/)

**What should you research?**

* The date of the invention/upgrade. Find two sources that confirm your date.
* A brief explanation or description of the technology.
* A brief explanation or description of the film that first used the technology (or any film that made use of the technology).
* Images of the technology, if possible.

Use the template if you find it helpful.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Technology and Description** | **Date of Invention/First Use** | **Film That used this Technology** |
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**Information to highlight in your presentation:**

**1930s**

The Great Depression ravages America, Technicolor invents the “three-strip process”, Hollywood’s “Golden Age”

**1940s**

WWII changes American film, The Supreme Court breaks up the “Seven Sisters” monopoly, The Hayes Commission

**1950s**

Televisions compete with movie theaters for audiences, Cinemascope, advancements in color processes

**1960s**

Independent films become all the rage, more sex and violence in films to distinguish them from TV, MPAA ratings system

**1970s**

Special effects on the rise, “Steadicam”, the summer movie season is created, the dawn of the “Blockbuster”

**1980s**

VCRs become commonplace, multi-screen theaters are created, Cable TV/HBO

**1990s**

Computer graphics invade move animation and special effects, sequels and re-makes dominate movie production, pay-per-view and pay channels are new ways of watching films

**2000s**

Digital technology, no more film, satellite distribution to theaters, bigbigbig budget films