**Lesson Six: Arts Commentary Lesson: Writing Movie Reviews //** Adam Dawkins

*Compare & Contrast 2 reviews of the same film*

**Essential Question:** What can we learn from the pros about writing quality film reviews that explore the HOW and WHY of fact and opinion without using plot summary or empty statements of opinion?

**Rationale:** Students need to read professional film critics in order to write their own movie reviews. They need to see what the pros actually do and understand how they do it.

**Materials:**

* Two reviews of the same film- one that students will likely have seen- by two different professional critics.
* Two versions of each review; a clean version and a markup version with teacher comments.

**Time:** 80 minutes (one class period)

**10 minutes: Large group-**  *Drawing on prior knowledge*

* Ask students if the have seen *Hunger Games* and get initial feedback and reaction about the film from those who have read the books and those who haven’t.
* Ask students if the read movie reviews before deciding on a movie or after seeing a movie. Why? Why not?
* Ask: How is a movie review different from a news story or a feature story?

**30 minutes: Large Group:** *Teacher-Led discussion*

* Read each of the *Hunger Games* reviews with the students
* Review comments while reading. Point out what the writer actually does and HOW they do it.
* Facilitate a question and answer discussion. Which review do you like better? Why? What is it that the writer does that makes it work? Where do they fall short?

**30 minutes: Individual:** *Student-Activity*

* Have students find two reviews of the same movie (one they have seen, if possible). Post the links to review sites (Rotten Tomatoes) on the class website so they are not endlessly clicking.
* Copy and paste the reviews to Word document or a Google Doc.
* Using the following distinctions, mark the reviews with the comments function.
* WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW, OPINON, FACT.
* Review coaching techniques

**Homework/ Assessment:** Markup & Coach the two reviews you found.

**Coming up…**  Writing your own review. Watching a movie together as a class and using the skills learned in this lesson to write a review.