

Throughout the term, you will be required to write response papers to short films screened in class. These are generally due at the beginning of the class period after a film is screened. Response papers must be:

- Typed and printed out
- Proofread
- In English
- Approximately 1-2 pages in length
- Titled with the name of the film, the filmmaker, the film's creation date, and your name.

I have many goals in having you write these response papers. First, I want to expose you to short computer-animated films that you may not have seen. Second, I want to encourage you to begin observing animation more closely. Note that this includes you as an audience member engaged in a (hopefully) compelling film, but also you as a developing digital artist who can learn from techniques being employed by the filmmakers. And finally, I want you to get comfortable articulating your thoughts in writing.

To these ends, I encourage you to quickly scribble down your reactions after you watch a film the first time. What stands out in your mind? Story? Design? Animation? Models? Music? Concept? Don't worry about WHY something stands out to you yet. Save that for now. If nothing stands out, then take some time to ask yourself, "What was this about?" and see if you can write down some answers.

Then, watch the film again. Try to identify the reasons you were drawn to something. See if you can understand how the filmmaker's decisions impacted your eventual viewing experience. Try reverse-engineering the creative process. Take some more notes.

And only then would I encourage you to start writing. You don't have to synopsise the film in your response paper (though you can if you want to). It's okay to assume that the reader (me) will have seen it. You DO have to name the film and the filmmaker (see above) in your paper, and it's always a good idea to point to specifics in the film. Refer to shots, characters, moments as necessary to clarify your responses.

This paper is YOUR response to the film, so feel free to write in the first person, and please be honest. If you really liked the film then say so and try to examine why. Same if you didn't like it.