WEEK 3 ASSIGNMENT: SAMPLE OUTLINE

Your Week 3 Assignment should follow close to this outline to meet all the requirements of the prompt in a clear and substantive way. Though this outline suggests five sections, each body paragraph section can be broken into multiple paragraphs so to thoroughly examine and express your ideas.

1. Introduction

* Introduce and define **auteur theory**, making sure to address its origin and its usefulness (or lack thereof—if you disagree) in film criticism.
* Introduce your chosen **director** and the **two films** of this director that you will use to support your argument. Briefly summarize the ways in which these films meet the criteria established by Andrew Sarris in *Film: From Watching to Seeing*. (Note: all film titles should be placed in *italics*).
* Compose a **thesis statement** that argues the importance and purpose of auteur theory, framing your chosen director as an example of this theory, and how the two films you’ve selected from that director’s oeuvre are exemplary of the criteria that comprise the basis of auteur theory.

1. Body Paragraph(s): Technical Competence
   * In this paragraph, you might address the importance of **technical competence** in relation to what makes a film good (or, occasionally, intentionally *not* good).
   * Use **examples** from each of your chosen director’s two films that demonstrate said director’s technical competence. Be sure to break down the various elements that clearly establish the technical competence in these films.
   * Elaborate on specific techniques and the craftspeople who execute your chosen director’s vision, such as the cinematographer and editor. Does your chosen director rely on the same people film after film? What are the hallmarks of their technical style?
2. Body Paragraph(s): Distinguishable Personality
   * Using examples from your chosen director’s two films, identify the traits that are indicative of that director’s stylistic personality.
   * Discuss the genre or genres in which your chosen director primarily works (or if your chosen director bends genre conventions, address how).
   * Using analysis of your examples, describe the consistent hallmarks of your chosen director’s work.
3. Body Paragraph(s): Interior Meaning
   * Address the type of stories your chosen director tends to focus on. Do these stories convey similar themes?
   * Elaborate on the thematic elements of your chosen director’s two films and how they convey a deeper truth or meaning.
   * Using examples of acting, cinematography, editing, argue for the multiple ways in which your chosen director is able to convey consistent and meaningful themes throughout the two selected films.
4. Conclusion
   * Your conclusion should reframe your thesis statement as the central argument of your essay, and clearly state whether or not there is evidence for the usefulness of auteur theory.
   * Your conclusion should be sure to address each of your main points about the three criteria of auteur theory.
   * End with a statement that expands the argument beyond the confines of your essay or poses an idea that merits further thinking on the part of the reader.