

Fleming College
Creative Journey - Dr. J. Mior
Research Paper One - Value 25%

Student Name:	Student Number:
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This Research Paper is being distributed in class in Week Four of the Spring 2010 Semester (May, 2010).

Your answers must be typed, double spaced, pages numbered with correct spelling and grammatical structure. Further details about the format of the final submission will be discussed in class.

Answer any of the following five (5) questions. In formulating your answers you may use material from any source provided proper credit is given. Your primary source will be the web page for this course, lecture and class notes, any class discussion and the film themselves.

1. Roger Ebert once wrote:

“I believe movies can be noble and good for the soul. They are empathy machines, allowing us for an hour or two to understand a little of what it would be like to be somebody else. To be a different race or gender or religion, or live at another time or under other politics. They help to make us citizens of mankind. Of course most movies are shallow or silly, but sometimes there are movies that shake us up and make us deeper and better.”

- a. Who is Roger Ebert?
- b. Explain the message that Ebert is trying to deliver in this quotation especially in the context of our course. Include examples from the films we have viewed to date.

2. The essential conditions for any drama include:

- An unresolved issue with the outcome in doubt
- A deep commitment to action by a character with whom we can identify
- The character must be involved in a conflict which has, at its heart, high personal stakes
- Urgency, or a sense of deadline

Select one of the two films we have viewed (**i am sam** and **A Beautiful Mind**) and explain how the film fulfills the above conditions.

3. There are several types of “central conflict” in the films that we viewed. The types of conflict include:
- Man vs. Man
 - Man vs. Self
 - Man vs. Nature or Man vs. Society

Select one of the two films we have viewed and explain how the above conflicts are manifested.

4. Describe and explain the main similarities and differences between the two films we viewed to date (**i am sam** and **A Beautiful Mind**).
5. In **A Beautiful Mind**, there is a series of episodes and individual scenes in which the conflict begins to heighten and complications develop. When the conflict is approaching its height (“crescendo”), a crisis occurs. This is the turning point, an event that makes the resolution of the film’s conflict inevitable.

What do you think is the crisis that is the turning point in this film? Explain your point of view.

6. In **A Beautiful Mind** John Nash’s friend and his niece play a pivotal role in this film. In many ways, his roommate provides him comfort, friendship and needed distraction from his intense competition with his colleagues. Explain what this role is and its importance.
7. Explain how John Nash overcomes his problem. Your answer will include a brief description of schizophrenia, its symptoms and how it affect people.
8. Chiaroscuro is normally considered the treatment of light and shade (dark) in drawings and paintings. Can the juxtaposition of the relationship of Sam and Lucy and the lawyer and her son (in **i am sam**) be considered an example of chiaroscuro? Explain your answer.
9. In one scene Sam (**i am sam**) screams out “You don’t know. You try and you try and you never get there. People like you are perfect.” The lawyer’s response shows another side of her character. How does this scene advance the development of the scene? What insights does it give us about Sam? What insights does the lawyer’s response give us?
10. There is a remarkable difference between Sam and his lawyer. Why does this difference exist? How does it reinforce or detract from the film’s main them?