

Media Literacy Spring 2023

Midterm Assignment: Exploring Based on a True Story

Due:

To analyze “based on a true story” narratives, you will be asked to choose a film and complete a film review that critiques, analyzes, and fact checks the film. This is a creative assignment. You are playing the role of a film critic. You can either deliver a 4-5 page paper, a 5-10 minute podcast or a 5-10 minute video. It is your choice.

You will choose one of the following films to review:

- On the Basis of Sex (2018, Directed by Mimi Leder)
- BlacKkKlansman (2018, Directed by Spike Lee)
- Vice (2018, Directed by Adam McKay)
- Trial of the Chicago 7 (2020, Directed by Aaron Sorkin)
- Judas and the Black Messiah (2021, Directed by Shaka King)

Regardless of what format you choose, you must do the following:

- Summarize the film plot
- Critique the quality of the film including directing, cinematography, writing, editing and performances
- Fact check the film and explore the information that was altered, left out, and/or added
- Analyze the film’s effectiveness in telling its story
- Recommend changes to the film to make it better and more effective in telling the story it is based on
- Evaluate the film on a scale of 1 (this film did a terrible job with this story) to 5 (this film did a perfect job with this story).

This assignment will be graded and counted as part of the 15% of your grade.

Remember, this is supposed to be a creative assignment. Be willing to play the role of film critic. Have fun with it.

*Please note if you deliver a podcast or video you must also include a written transcript.

EXTRA CREDIT – Worth 5-10 points

Due: Saturday, March 25 at 11:59pm.

Write one-page answering these questions:

- What is one story in the news today that you think would make a great movie? Why?
- If you were writing this film, how would you alter the true story to make it an even better movie?
- If you were directing this film, who would cast to star in it? Why?