

Name(s) _____

Period _____ Due Date ___/___/___

Citizen Kane

“I don’t think any word can explain a man’s life.”

Essential Guidelines:

- clearly state the question you are addressing
- properly head your paper
- edit carefully and cite plenty of evidence
- *please* use the Google Doc provided in our Google Classroom
- be sure to properly submit your final draft via the Google Classroom
- you *may* print a hard copy following our class guidelines and turn it in to the class basket, but I prefer the Google Doc

Part One – Literary Connections: Pick *one* of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Use examples from the film and/or other related films that would provide supporting evidence.

1. Consider and describe the **mood** and **tone** of this film. Does the **mood** change? Is there anything unique about the **tone** of this film?
2. Cite at least two concrete examples of **foreshadowing** used in this film. Also consider the use of **motifs** as a form of **foreshadowing**.
3. Cite at least two strong examples of **symbolism** used in this film. What purpose did these **symbols** have and were they effective?

Part Two – Cinematic Connections: Pick *one* of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Use examples from the film and/or other related films that would provide supporting evidence.

4. Discuss a memorable scene in terms of **Camera Placement: Distance from Object**. Refer to your vocabulary handout. Why were these shots used in this scene? What did the shots mean? Do you agree with the director’s shot selection?
5. Discuss a memorable scene in terms of **Camera Placement: Angle to Object**. Refer to your vocabulary handout. Why were these shots used in this scene? What did the shots mean? Do you agree with the director’s shot selection?
6. Recall a scene that you liked in terms of **composition** and/or **cinematography**. Why did you like the scene? What did it add to the film? Was there anything ground-breaking about it?
7. We know that there are essentially **three types of movement** in film: 1) the viewer’s eye searches and scans the screen, 2) characters or objects move in relation to the frame, and 3) the camera moves across, into or away from its own field of vision. Cite a memorable scene from this film for each of these **three types of movement**.

FILM ANALYSIS

Citizen Kane Assignment · DeMiero

Part Three – Analysis: Pick *one* of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in about 3 to 5 ¶s. Depth of thought and analysis is what counts here, *not* hot air. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source.

8. **Rosebud.** Consider Mr. Thompson's final speech: *"No, Mr. Kane was a man who got everything he wanted and then lost it. Maybe Rosebud was something he couldn't get or something he lost. Anyway, it wouldn't have explained anything. I don't think any word can explain a man's life. No, I guess Rosebud is just a piece in a jigsaw puzzle, a missing piece."* So, what was "Rosebud" – literally and figuratively?
9. **Enigma.** This film asks the question: *"Can we really know the meaning of a person's life?"* Kane emerges as an enigma, a question mark, because he is not presented from a single point of view that pretends to be reality. Rather, his story is told in terms of a quest for knowledge (the reporter's), through the perspectives of many different witnesses. Aside from the opening death-scene (*through whose eyes are we seeing this!?!?*), we observe Kane through six different sets of eyes – Thompson's newsreel, Thatcher's, Bernstein's, Leland's, Susan's, and Raymond's. Analyze why each particular facet of Kane's life is told by each "narrator," and why the narratives are assigned and ordered as they are.
10. **Breaking the Structural Rules.** Feature films before "Citizen Kane" tended to be very straightforward in their treatment of time. Flash-backs and flash-forwards were extremely rare, for example. A typical film of the time would have started with a very young Kane and progressed through his life, period by period, until his death. Instead, "Citizen Kane" opens with the death of its protagonist. Why do you think this was done, and what was to be gained by this narrative structure?
11. **Your Choice.** Got a better question? Submit it and the best of the best will be used in future editions of this assignment. Of course, you also have to provide an essay response, too.

Notes:

Released1941
DirectorOrson Welles
Screenplay.....Herman J. Mankiewicz
.....& Orson Welles
Cinematography.....Gregg Toland
Music.....Bernard Herrmann

Characters:

Orson WellesCharles Foster Kane
Joseph Cotton.....Jedediah Leland
Dorothy ComingoreSusan Alexander Kane
Agnes Moorehead.....Mrs. Mary Kane
Philip Van ZandtMr. Rawlston
Everett SloaneMr. Bernstein
Ray CollinsJames "Jim" W. Gettys
(see *IMDB.com* for more)