

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

## Psycho

*“A boy's best friend is his mother.”*

*~ Norman Bates*

### 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. **Dramatic irony** refers to a situation in which events or facts not known to a character on screen are known to another character and/or the audience. How is **dramatic irony** used in this film? Cite and explain at least two examples.
3. Cite at least two concrete examples of **foreshadowing** used in this film. Also consider the use of **motifs** as a form of **foreshadowing**.

**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. Recall a scene where Hitchcock uses technique that is indicative of his unique style. Why is your selection an excellent example of this technique? What impact did it have on the film and why do you believe Hitchcock used it?
5. Discuss a memorable scene in terms of **Camera Placement: Distance from Object**. Refer to your vocabulary handout. Why were these shots used by Hitchcock in this scene? What did the shots mean? Do you agree with the director’s shot selection?
6. Discuss a memorable scene in terms of **Camera Placement: Angle to Object**. Refer to your vocabulary handout. Why were these shots used by Hitchcock in this scene? What did the shots mean? Do you agree with the director’s shot selection?
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

## Psycho Assignment · DeMiero

**Part Three – Analysis:** Pick *one* of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in about 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.     **Directing Style.** Alfred Hitchcock chose to shoot “Psycho” in black and white for several reasons. Do a little research online and find evidence for two main reasons for this decision, then explain whether you believe Hitchcock made a good decision based on each reason.
  
9.     **Suspense.** A common definition of **suspense** is: *“a quality in a work of fiction that arouses excited expectation or uncertainty about what may happen.”* Explore how Hitchcock creates **suspense** in this film – does he withhold information, use specific camera techniques, shot compositions, music, etc? Identify one key example of his use of **suspense**, how that suspense is developed and ultimately resolved. Include your analysis of whether this was an effective use of **suspense** and whether you would have done anything differently had you been the director.
  
10.    **Motif.** Motifs are recurring structures, contrasts, or literary devices that can help to develop and inform the piece’s major themes. Discuss the different motifs and functions that the following objects embody during Psycho. Part of the function of a motif might be the effect it has on us or the contribution it makes to the atmosphere of the film: A) the newspaper Marion buys at the used car lot, B) the shower curtain, and C) birds.
  
11.    **Ethics.** According to the established standards of the time, the following provisions applied to films in 1960:
  - The sympathy of the audience should never be thrown to the side of crime, wrongdoing, evil or sin
  - Excessive and lustful kissing, embracing, suggestive gestures and postures were unacceptable
  - Explicit nudity was unacceptable
  - Swearing such as the use of the words “damn,” “God,” and “hell” was unacceptable
  - Brutality and gruesomeness had to be treated with the careful limits of “good taste”Taking the above into consideration, do you think Hitchcock got away with a lot in the making of “Psycho”? Use specific examples from the film to support your opinion.
  
12.    **Your Choice.** Got a better question? Submit it and the best of the best will be used in future editions of this assignment.

### Notes:

Released .....1960  
Director: .....Alfred Hitchcock  
Screenplay: .....Joseph Stefano  
                                .....Robert Bloch  
Music: .....Bernard Herrmann

### Characters:

Norman Bates .....Anthony Perkins  
Marion Crane .....Janet Leigh  
Lila Crane .....Vera Miles  
Sam Loomis .....John Gavin  
Milton Arbogast .....Martin Balsam  
Dep. Sheriff Al Chambers.....John McIntire  
George Lowery .....Vaughn Taylor  
Tom Cassidy .....Frank Albertson  
Caroline.....Patricia Hitchcock