

## Using Movies in the Foreign Language Classroom: The Movie Journal Approach

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Review by Ruan Peçanha (TEAM Member). Jan 25, 2023.



In *Using movies in the foreign language classroom: the movie journal approach*, we can observe that Eric Bray is determined to show a method to assist teachers and students in classes that use movies. The author points out that using movies in the classroom can both help and hinder English as Foreign Language (EFL) students' language acquisition and this problem could be solved by keeping a movie journal.

This article is very interesting for both teachers and students since it is in line with what many teachers and researchers have written about how useful it is to have movies in EFL classrooms. According to Bray, the use of movies in the classroom can stimulate thought and discussion.

In this respect, the author discusses the benefits of using movies in the EFL classroom. Furthermore, Bray shows a movie journal format developed by him, and how this movie journal can be used to help students benefit from movie watching in class. These topics have a good theoretical background and are easy to understand.

How does this movie journal work? Bray claims that after watching a movie (or a clip from a movie) in class, students are supposed to answer five questions in the journal and then debate the movie in small groups while using such journal. The questions are: What happened in this section of the movie? What is your reaction or opinion about this section of the movie? What do you think will happen next in

the movie? What did you notice about culture in this section of the movie? What words or expressions do you want to remember from this section of the movie? Bray writes clearly and simply. All of the topics are well-written and objective.

I see this article as very fruitful because it shows that the movie journal is an easy way to increase students' benefits from watching movies in class. Also, students will have access to natural language used in authentic contexts and will have time to consider what they want to say and how to effectively express these ideas in a foreign language.

