*Edward Scissorhands* Critical Essay

**Choose a film which is an example of a specific genre such as horror, romance, action or comedy.**

**Explain how the film makers have used the features of the genre to create a successful film.**

Introduction

* Name of text and director (Tim Burton) (Released 1990)
* Use emotive vocabulary
* Use the key words of question (name what genre is and how it’s a successful film)

Paragraph 2

* Sum up Burton’s use of the horror genre in the film
* Sum up how he challenges/adheres to horror conventions
* Explain what themes this helps Burton convey and sum up how he does this (e.g. through Edward’s experiences etc.)
* Describe how Burton effectively makes this an intriguing film

Main body of essay

* Each paragraph should focus on fully exploring a key technique/area (e.g. character, setting, colours, symbolism, camera shots, soundtrack, theme etc.)
* Explain how and why the technique/area is used to enhance Burton’s use of the genre and to make this an effective/interesting film.
* Make it clear how Burton challenging horror stereotypes is effective.
* Explain how it is effective in helping build Edward’s characterisation/convey his emotions etc.
* Explain how the technique used helps engage the audience’s interest and make it clear what Burton is wishing to reveal to us.

These paragraphs must include:

* A topic sentence – introduction – what paragraph is about
* Understanding –Key details of text e.g. mention of technique
* Analysis – how this technique is used and why (include quotation)
* Evaluation - Personal opinion (no I) and how the technique is effective in making this a successful film.

Conclusion

* Sum up answer to question set – how it’s an effective use of the horror genre.
* Explain how Burton helps show the emotions of Edward through this genre.
* Sum up how this helps engage the viewers and makes this an effective film.

General Advice

You should focus on at least 3 techniques in the main body of the essay e.g.

* Characterisation
* Themes
* Setting
* Mise-en-scene (costumes, facial expressions, camera angles etc.)
* Symbolism
* Use of contrast/dichotomous symbols
* Use of colour
* Point of view/narration/framing device (e.g. story within a story)
* Danny Elfman’s soundtrack/score
* Irony
* Use of flashback (e.g. Inventor and Edward)
* Allusion to ‘Frankenstein’

Remember to look through the handouts and notes in your jotter to help you. You also have quotations from the film you should use.