

Film Techniques Test

Writing Prompt: Sample Response

From the opening clip of John Patrick Shanley's *Joe v. the Volcano*, identify at least FIVE specific film techniques and describe how they contribute to ONE of the following: character, mood, or theme.

Sample topic sentences:

In the opening segment of John Patrick Shanley's *Joe v. the Volcano*, several film techniques work together to create a light, whimsical mood.

Several specific film techniques contribute to the light, whimsical mood in the opening segment of John Patrick Shanley's *Joe v. the Volcano*.

In John Patrick Shanley's *Joe v. the Volcano*, specific film techniques in the opening scene help to establish Joe as a character who alone, out of all of his coworkers, struggles to remain alive and aware in a dull and deadening work environment.

In John Patrick Shanley's *Joe v. the Volcano*, specific film techniques from the opening scene help to establish Joe's workplace as an evil, demonic force intent on crushing and consuming the lives of its employees.

Partial sample paragraph:

In the opening segment of John Patrick Shanley's *Joe v. the Volcano*, several film techniques work together to create a light, whimsical mood. Before the first picture is even shown, the audience hears non-diegetic music that sounds chaotic, like members of a symphony warming up their instruments before a concert. This sound is followed by the tapping of a conductor on his music stand, hushing the instruments and preparing to begin the performance. However, instead of a symphonic orchestra, the light musical notes of a music box begin to play, accompanied by the words printed on the screen: "Once upon a time, there was a guy named Joe . . ." This non-diegetic sound alerts the viewers before the movie even starts that what they are about to see is a fairy tale, an artificial, light-hearted story about a modern guy in a modern setting. It is not to be taken seriously. Another technique that sets this mood is the series of close-up shots of the company's product signs as Joe makes his way to the entrance. One close-up that adds to the humorous mood is . . .