

# Tim Burton Style Analysis Essay Outline

## Intro Paragraph:

In this paragraph you need to discuss Tim Burton. What is personality like? How does his personality match the tone of his films? What are his influences? (You already did some of this on pg. 135 of your textbook.)

You need to close your opening paragraph with your thesis statement: "Burton uses cinematic techniques such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to give his films, (name the films you will be referencing in your paper), a \_\_\_\_\_ feeling that resonates with audiences."

## Body Paragraphs x 2:

Begin your topic sentence with a transition word or phrase and then identify and describe **what** one of the techniques was that Burton used. (This should be the first cinematic technique you mentioned in your thesis statement.)

- ✓ Now support your claim with evidence. The evidence is **how** Burton uses the technique in one of his films. Start by describing a scene. Be sure to use enough detail and explanation that it will make sense even to someone who has never seen the movie.
- ✓ Now go on and explain the director's purpose. **Why** did he use this technique? How was it supposed to make the audience feel? (Be sure to use 'emotion' words.)

Now use a transition word to indicate that you are adding another piece of evidence (additionally, furthermore, also). Now repeat the check-marked steps above using the same technique but a different scene from a different film.

To close out your paragraph, provide an analysis on **how** successful the director was in achieving his desired effect and **why**. Be sure to address both examples you've used above. Perhaps you think one example was more impactful on the audience than another.

Repeat this process for your 2<sup>nd</sup> body paragraph.

## Closing Paragraph:

Start with a transition which indicates you are bringing your essay to a close. Restate your thesis and main points but in different words.

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Sample Paragraph: Identify and define the technique; provide at least two examples of the technique being used (each example should come from a different film); describe the effect on the audience; close the paragraph with an evaluation of how successful the use of the technique was in manipulating the mood of the audience.

Lighting is an important cinematic technique directors can use to set the mood for a particular scene. For instance, high-key lighting is used to flood a scene with light, often making the set and characters appear happy and safe. In contrast, low-key lighting casts deep shadows across the set and characters creating a sense of danger. Burton makes good use of lighting techniques in many of his films. For instance, in the film "Beetlejuice," Burton uses high-key lighting in the interior of the Maitlan's house to give it a comfortable, cozy feel that reflects the personality of the family; however, after that family dies in a traffic accident and the Deetzes move in and "renovate" the home, the lighting becomes much darker. This contrast makes the house seem cold and unsettling, matching the personality of the new family. This technique is exemplified by the scene in which the Deetzes host a dinner party for out-of-town guests. The action alternates between the brightly lit attic where the ghosts of the Maitlans reside in safety to the gloomy dining room of the main house where the nasty, selfish Deetzes live out their cold, heartless lives. This juxtaposed level of light exacerbates the ill will the audience is supposed to feel towards the Deetzes. Similarly, Burton also uses lighting to set the tone in his 1989 version of "Batman." In the very opening scene the audience watches a family as they attempt to navigate the streets of Gotham City which are cast in stark, gloomy shadows. This use of low-key lighting helps to create the image of a city that is cold and dangerous. As the audience follows the father, mother, and young boy, they can't help but realize that this is not the colorful, campy Batman their parents enjoyed watching in the 1960s. They quickly realize that this version is a much darker world with violence lurking in the shadows. They had no choice but to fear for the small family on the screen. Without a doubt, Burton's use of lighting is very effective at pulling on the emotional strings of his audiences. By alternating between high and low-key lighting, his audiences are always expecting the unexpected.

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## Things to Remember:

- Your paper should be 12pt font & double-spaced
- Don't forget to indent your paragraphs
- Don't forget that film titles should be *italicized*
- Also 'Scissorhands' is one word
- You will need to create a 'Works Cited' page which lists the films you cover in your essay
  - Use the 'References'
    - Dates for the films are as follows:
      - *Big Fish*: 2004
      - Edward Scissorhands: 1990
      - Charlie and the Chocolate Factory: 2005