

ASSERTION

What do we understand by assertion?

The purpose for writing an assertion and a critique is to evaluate somebody's work (here, a series or a movie) in order to increase the viewer's understanding of it. An assertion is a subjective writing because it expresses the deeper opinion in an influencing way through evaluating a part of a series or a film.

To assert means to speak in an imposing manner. It is believed and statistically proven that the movies and series have the power to influence the viewer's mind at a huge level. Therefore, we need to understand the basics that any motion picture asserts and it speaks to its audience.

Chatman, who is a famous social culturalist also admits that films can assert a property or relation by means of voiceovers, he claims that "the dominant mode" in *filmmaking is "presentational assertiveness"*. By this, he simply appears to mean that a camera does not describe in the same way a narrator in a literary work does. But, at the same time, are there other aspects of film that do assert something in the viewer's mind that is through *close-ups, establishing shots or freeze frames or disagreeing with his comments about the way narrative time functions in a film.*

A filmmaker dealing with what is placed before the camera has to be specific in his/her selection of scenes, objects, actors, etc. One can argue that these details are simply presented before the camera, but when one takes into account the entirety of a film do such things appear to be asserted? We tend not to envision a character, place, or prop other than how it appears in whatever we are watching. Is this a kind of form of assertion? With the rise of our ability to freeze frame films and television whenever we like, are directors becoming increasingly assertive?

Thus we must understand, a film does not say,

'This is the state of affairs' it merely shows you that state of affairs"

A film's relationship to society

Scholars have stated in their researches of film studies upon how motion pictures relate to society. It is a symbiotic relationship that the films shares with Indian society where the entertainment industries grows economically and society faces its reflection through its means. To illustrate the above statement let's take Comedy genre. The purpose of comedy films is to appeal to audience emotions through

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humor producing laughter. But often in Bollywood comedy, it is observed that in the most severe time, the hero ends up messing things and we burst into laughter. This is exactly what happens in real life, where I assume most of us mess up doing something that is really important to us which is tragedy for us but comedy for others. Humor is released in the most common situation and through the common dialect of language. Burlesque style is used in most of comedies to lay emphasis upon the most ridiculous situations or persons and trying to imitate it for the sake of exhibiting reality through parody. Slapstick is the other style which is famous in Indian Bollywood where there is extreme use and exaggeration of physical activities and props. Read, *Ben Jonson's Theory of Humor* to understand the arousal of laughter in human beings for reference.

Similar is the account of tragedy and romance, which is to pick up the most relatable instance of society link it with common ideology of time and present.

How do you assert a film or a series?

Assertion can easily be done by breaking down the whole film and study the parts and analyzing it in pieces.

However, writing an assertion requires two steps: critical analyzing and critical writing.

Critical Analysis:

1. Identify the Title of the movie/series and what is its purpose

Never misunderstand the purpose of any motion picture to be solely entertainment. Always try and look for a bigger reason.

Example: Sacred games shows, how humans in a metro city of India are vulnerable emotionally and seek to illegal activities. The idea of patriarchal manliness has consumed the identity of multiple man in the series.

2. Analyze and identify the team and its work

i.e. Who is the protagonist(hero) and the antagonist(villain) ? How do they both look? What is their skin type? How has the director directed the film? Has the film sympathize with the villain by showing his family background, drunkard father who is a bully, or an orphan or a heartbreak?? Whose voice is heard the most and how has it affected the movie?

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e.g. In Sacred games, Ganesh Gaitonde was played specifically by Nawazuddin Siddiqui and not by Ranbir Kapoor or Hrithik Roshan and the reason is his skin color and facial features which are raw and very ordinary and not rich.

3. Make an outline of the work(film/series) and write the description of it later

Check how is the language? What is it emphasizing? What idea is it giving? How many violence is been portray? And is it just affecting the life of a person externally? Or is there some mental and emotional or psychological effect as well?

Example: “*Apun ko lagta hai, sala apun hi ej, bhagwan hai!*” language here is a local dialect showing the lower education of the speaker. Also the meaning indirectly conveyed is the person does not believe in any god, has no faith and thus suffers trust issues with everyone. The power that the speaker sees is in armaments that can just in seconds take anyone’s life and makes the user powerful.

Give out multiple examples like this, which supports your idea of the bigger picture that the film is stating.

4. Conclude your determination of the purpose by connecting the pieces forming an ideology at the whole. And explain how it used

- The information with factual material
- The work persuade with appeal to reason or emotions
- To entertain (to affect people's emotions)
- If the purpose is to inform, has the material been presented clearly, accurately, with order and coherence?
- If the purpose is to persuade, look for evidence, logical reasoning, contrary evidence
- If the purpose was to entertain, determine how emotions are affected: does it make you laugh, cry, angry? Why did it affect you?

Consider the following questions: How is the material organized? Who is the intended audience? What kind of language and imagery does the script writer uses?