

Mini-Research Project “Spot Check”

Before turning in your practice paragraph and Works Cited page for *The Secret Life of Bees*, use the following check list to ensure you have everything you need.

PARAGRAPH

- ___ The first sentence somehow connects, compares, or contrasts an element from the movie and real historical events.
- ___ The paragraph uses examples from the movie.
- ___ The paragraph uses examples from at least 2 other online sources.
- ___ There are at least 3 parenthetical citations in the paragraph.
- ___ Every parenthetical citation matches the FIRST thing listed for that source on the Works Cited page.
- ___ Periods come after the parenthetical citation.
- ___ At least one direct quotation is punctuated and cited correctly.
- ___ The paragraph ends with the author’s thoughts/words, not a citation.
- ___ There are absolutely no fragments, run-ons, or typographical errors in the paragraph.

WORKS CITED

- ___ The Works Cited page is actually its own page.
- ___ There are at least 3 citations, including the movie.
- ___ Citations are in alphabetical order.
- ___ Every line is double-spaced—no more, no less.
- ___ Citations use hanging indent—the first line hangs out to the left margin while other lines are indented ½ inch.
- ___ Each citation makes sense—no “red flags.”

MLA FORMAT

- ___ The overall look and format of the pages matches the sample piece on the next two pages.

Remember, your grade on this assignment will be based on the following criteria:

- ___ /1 Topic sentence is clear, concise, and makes a claim (addressing the prompt).
- ___ /6 There is sufficient evidence from both online sources and the movie to support the claim in the topic sentence (3 points)—all evidence has properly formatted parenthetical citations (3 points)
- ___ /2 At least one properly formatted direct quotation is used.
- ___ /1 Paragraph attempts a concluding thought that is clear, not redundant.
- ___ /2 Paragraph is free of major errors—no run-ons or fragments.
- ___ /2 Works Cited page is in proper format—alphabetical order, one-inch margins, labeled correctly
- ___ /6 Works Cited page contains proper citations for movie and two credible online sources (2 points each)

- ___ /20 points total

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Mrs. Spaman

English 9

4 February 2015

Seabiscuit the Movie Sends Powerful Message

The movie *Seabiscuit* accurately portrays the way many middle-class Americans viewed the real racing horse's story. On-screen Seabiscuit is depicted as an underdog—one against whom the odds are already stacked. For example, he is much smaller than his competitors and is determined unfit to race by many of the country's best trainers. As he begins to find success on the track, it's not the wealthy who flock in masses to see him, but rather the middle-class who is struggling as a result of the bad economy. Viewers see the track overrun with fans and people across the country huddling around their radios to listen to the action (*Seabiscuit*). The real financial hardships of the Great Depression certainly left middle-class citizens feeling vulnerable and weak. In fact, at its peak, the depression left one fourth of America's workforce without a job, and those who were still working experienced drastic wage cuts (Hardman). When the real Seabiscuit faced War Admiral in 1938, the race was seen by many as "the East Coast establishment of bankers and their beautiful horses versus a nation of disillusioned have-nots who championed a hero that had been beat up just like them" (Lovgren). Seeing this connection on screen helps the viewer understand just how difficult life was during the Great Depression and how inspiring a story like Seabiscuit's would have been to people who had lost a lot.

Works Cited

Hardman, John. "The Great Depression and the New Deal." *Ethics of Development in a Global Environment*. Stanford University, n.d. Web. 04 Feb. 2015.

Lovgren, Stefan. "From Nag to Riches: The Story of Seabiscuit." *National Geographic News*. National Geographic Society, 28 July 2003. Web. 05 Feb. 2014.

Seabiscuit. Dir. Gary Ross. Universal Pictures, 2003. DVD.