Explain how and why Muybridge shot his first film.

The first film Muybridge made was in order to help the governor of California settle a bet regarding race horses. He used still cameras with over 40 tripwires to monitor and track a horse’s movement. He then ran them together and projected them on a screen.

How did sound synchronization affect the film industry?

In the beginning sound in motion pictures did not catch on due to silent films being extremely popular. It was not until 1926 when the vitaphone was invented that sound synchronization in film was fully realized. The vitaphone was a disc that was played alongside a film as opposed to silent features which usually had an organ player following the film in real time. Even though the vitaphone was a huge stride in adding sound to motion pictures, it was quickly replaced with sound on film; which is having the audio track placed next to the frames on a film. Sound on film did ruin some actor’s careers as they were unable to transition from silent films to the "talkies", but did create the genres of musicals and gangster films.

How and why did the Golden Age of Hollywood end?

The Golden Age of Hollywood started in the 1930's and 1940's. The more popular films of the time were film noirs and war (propaganda) films. The downfall of the Golden Age of Hollywood came in the 1950's when the idea of Communism sweeping over the United States was our greatest fear. The House Committee of Un-American Activities was responsible for blacklisting hundreds of actors and professionals in the film industry. It was also around this time that television became more prevalent and less people wanted to go to the movies.

What is the significance of the French New Wave?

The French New Wave was a different take on creating film by French filmmakers. They believed that cinema was a growing art form where any idea or expression could be developed in a similar way to artists or novelists. Francois Traffaut was a prominent member of the French New Wave. In the 1960's film in America was changing due to the upheaval that was caused in the 1950's. This led filmmakers to change how they thought and made films. Movies were being made much cheaper and with limited resources.

Define Genre and explain why it is important.

Genre is the categorization of art. It defines what type of tone that a movie has. If a film does not commit to one type of genre or the tone is not consistent then there is a disconnect between the film and the audience, which then loses them. The idea is to create a world in which people can become enveloped in and believe everything that is happening in the story. Inappropriate tonal changes also show a lack of direction in the film.

Compare and contrast Drama and Comedy

Drama focuses on in depth character development and highly emotional interactions. Thematical elements are to be relatable and to see the protagonist overcome obstacles and succeed. Comedy is characters in humorous situations trying to be funny. There is little emotional depth or character development.

Explain why Romance films always show the protagonist going through pain and rejection initially.

Romantic films focus on characters who are fundamentally different but after going through different experiences and through hardships they become enamored with each other. The protagonist is usually rejected or hindered by an obstacle because the audience can identify with problems and issues, so when the characters get together at the end there is a greater feeling of accomplishment. It deepens the relationship between the two characters.