

## ***In the Heat of the Night* Film Proposal Presentation** **ENG 3CI**

You and **up to two others** want to make a film adaptation of John Ball's *In the Heat of the Night*, and you need **three million dollars** to do it. Being a Hollywood producer, you aren't going to just do a simple movie version of the original story. You want to **change** it, keeping it true to the morals and main ideas of the novel, but putting it in a different **time and place**. Do you want to make it in the present day? In the distant past? On another planet? That's up to you, but your version of the story has to feature characters in some way similar to the novel's characters (Tibbs, Gillespie, Delores, etc.) **and** have a similar main idea.



To convince the class to give you the money needed to make your movie, you will have to create a **PowerPoint** structured something like this:

- Briefly introduce the novel (who wrote it, when it was written, what it was about?)
- Explain why you think it would make a good movie, and why you need to tweak it to make it work in 2014
- State your intended audience (what age/group of people are you aiming for)
- What other successful movies are similar to yours (*ie*, “Teenaged boys liked *Transformers*, and this is just like that because...”)

Then, explain (with pictures!)...

- Your version's setting (time and place)
- Your version's characters (and maybe which actors you have in mind)
- Your version's plot (just a summary – not too much, not too little)

Conclude by telling us...

- Why we should fund your movie instead of someone else's

**Your presentation should be about five minutes long, so make it detailed and well-rehearsed.**

### **Tips and Suggestions:**

- A PowerPoint is a tricky thing to get right – you want bullet points, a maximum of three points per slide, and a easy-to-read choice of layout and colour.
- It's amazing how many people spend a lot of time on their PowerPoint, but forget to check for spelling. Don't be like them.
- You don't need to memorize your lines, but you shouldn't read from a paper like a robot, either. Practice before you present.
- All members of your group must present equally. One option is to give each person a big chunk of the presentation. A better option is to take turns, everyone speaking for a minute or two repeatedly.
- The more you do, the higher your mark will be. Following the assignment outline reasonably well will get you a Level 3. A Level 4 is earned by creativity and out-of-the-box thinking. (Movie posters, a short trailer, custom action figures, a video game version of your movie – the sky really is the limit.)
- **Be ready!** Figure out who's saying what and when **before** you present.

**Work hard on this, but be sure to have fun with it too!**

**Presentation Rubric**

| Criteria  | R | Level 1                             | Level 2                  | Level 3   | Level 4                    |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Content: THESIS (Idea and Workability of Movie Re imagining)</b> |   | A struggle / little attempt evident | Reaching / basic attempt | Presents an <b>imaginative</b> thesis<br>Thesis purpose <b>clear</b> and <b>well-explained</b><br>Presentation focus aligns with thesis   | Impressive / superbly done |
| <b>Content: ARGUMENTS &amp; EVIDENCE</b>                            |   | A struggle / little attempt evident | Reaching / basic attempt | Develops <b>several arguments</b> supporting the thesis<br>Uses <b>specific details</b> , examples, and images<br>Evidence <b>supports</b> stated argument for worth of movie project   | Impressive / superbly done |
| <b>Structure: ORGANIZATION</b>                                      |   | A struggle / little attempt evident | Reaching / basic attempt | Organization is logical and effective<br><b>Introduction</b> is creative and insightful and states the main focus of (thesis) of the presentation<br>Develops <b>arguments</b> fully and in a logical sequence<br><b>Conclusion</b> sums up the main points of the presentation convincingly and accurately<br>Uses <b>transitions</b> to move smoothly from one activity to another<br>Concludes the entire presentation | Impressive / superbly done |
| <b>Language / Style</b>   |   | A struggle / little attempt evident | Reaching / basic attempt | Uses appropriate <b>academic language</b><br>Speaks with correct <b>grammar</b> and <b>syntax</b><br><b>Body Language</b> (gestures, posture, eye contact, etc.) is engaging, appropriate, and effective<br><b>Voice</b> is loud, clear, and emphatic<br>Speaks from prepared, <b>point-form prompts</b> but does not rely on them wholly   | Impressive / superbly done |
| <b>Use of Media</b>   |   | >5 errors                           | 3-4 errors               | Uses <b>media components</b> as illustrations of arguments or the issue<br>Media spelling, grammar, and usage is <b>error-free</b><br><b>Integrates</b> media components effectively  | Apparently error-free      |