

Permission Slip: *The Matrix* (Lecture Hall, Monday 3/23 at 7pm)

Synopsis (Note: I love how '90s this synopsis is)

Perception: Our day-in, day-out world is real. Reality: That world is a hoax, an elaborate deception spun by all-powerful machines of artificial intelligence that control us. Whoa.

Mind-warp stunts. Techno-slammin' visuals. Mega-kick action. Keanu Reeves and Laurence Fishburne lead the fight to free humanity in this see-and-see-again cyberthriller. The story sears, the special effects stake out new movie-making territory – the movie flat-out rocks.

Cast and Crew

- Actors: Keanu Reeves (*Speed*), Laurence Fishburne (*CSI*), Carrie-Anne Moss (*Memento*), **Hugo Weaving** (*The Hobbit/Lord of the Rings*) and **Joe Pantaliano** (*The Sopranos*)
- Written and Directed by **The Wachowskis** (*Cloud Atlas*, *Bound*)

Reviews and Awards

- Won 4 Academy Awards: **Best Visual Effects** (John Gaeta), **Best Sound Mixing** (John T. Reitz), **Best Sound Editing** (Dane A. Davis), **Best Film Editing** (Zach Staenberg)
- **Entertainment Weekly**: “*The Matrix* is the most influential action movie of its generation. This is not hyperbole. It isn't even a stretch.”
- **Roger Ebert**: ***: “*The Matrix* did not bore me. It interested me so much, indeed, that I wanted to be challenged even more.”

Thematic Considerations, Questions, and Connections

If *1984* and *Brave New World* are two of dystopian literature's holy texts – and if *Never Let Me Go* may someday warrant similar consideration – then *The Matrix* stands as one of dystopian cinema's most notable achievements. Here is a film that takes so many of our course's central conceits – *What are we doing? Do we understand our own potential? What if forces beyond our control threaten to hold us back? What could we do without restrictions?* – and mixes them into a fascinating, unforgettable, and exciting science-fiction yarn.

Content Advisories, Runtime, and Viewer Rating

The Matrix is **rated R** for **Sci-Fi Violence and Brief Language**; there's one deeply unsettling scene involving a “bug,” and another involving facial distortion that's a fairly nightmarish image. Most of the violence is bloodless, but there's lots of it, even by action-movie standards. There are roughly 30 curse words in the film, which runs 136 minutes.

Consent

After considering *The Matrix*'s synopsis, content advisories, and viewer rating, I consent to allow _____ to view the film in the Arcadia High School Lecture Hall at 7:00pm on Monday, March 23rd.

Viewer Name: _____

Viewer Signature: _____

Consent Name: _____

Consent Signature: _____