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91099



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 English 2025

91099 Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s), supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s) convincingly, supported by evidence.	Analyse specified aspect(s) of studied visual or oral text(s) perceptively, supported by evidence.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should answer ONE of the essay questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–12 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (//////). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL 06

TEXT DETAILS

Visual / oral text type	Film	Visual / oral text type	Film
Title	District 9	Title	District 9
Director / creator	Neil Blomkamp	Director / creator	Neil Blomkamp

SELECTED QUESTION

Copy and paste the question you have chosen into the space below.

Analyse how language features were combined to manipulate the audience's response

PLANNING

handheld documentary style filming
alien dialogue
sound effect
we need to contain them
christopher johnson uses clicks and hisses to try and communicate with hujmna

blomkamp leaves us with one final haunting question If aliens came tomorrow would we treat them better than we treat ourselves
european news refugees
treaty waitangi
european maori

ESSAY

Type your essay in the space below. You should aim to write a concise essay of no more than 750–800 words. The quality of your analysis is more important than the length of your essay. (The counter will change colour when you reach the recommended word count.)

Support the points you make with specific details from the text(s).

B I U

Humanity's true monsters emerge when aliens descend from the sky; not from above, but from within. District 9, directed by Neil Blomkamp in 2009, is a science-fiction film set in Johannesburg, South Africa. The aliens are confined to slum-like conditions in a segregated area called District 9, while their spaceship hovers above Johannesburg throughout the movie, tantalizingly out of reach. The film follows an ordinary man called Wikus Van De Merwe, an MNU worker who becomes infected with alien DNA and slowly turns into one of the aliens throughout the film. Blomkamp explores themes of xenophobia, marginalisation, and oppression while also making metaphoric comparisons to the alien treatment and the apartheid. He uses language features to do this which manipulates the audience's response and invokes reflection on who the true aliens are and whether humans or aliens are showing the most human qualities. Some of these language features include, handheld documentary style filming, alien dialogue, and sound effects. These combined manipulate the audience's response, invoking reflection on who the true aliens are in this movie.

Neil Blomkamp uses handheld documentary style filming to create a more realistic approach to the film, making the viewer feel like what they are watching is real. An example of this is when Wikus enters District 9, forcing aliens to sign eviction notices, he notices a house full of alien eggs. Wikus brings out a flame thrower and proceeds to burn the house down with great joy, killing potential alien babies. Wikus says, "Do you hear that sound, they're popping like it's popcorn." The handheld documentary style filming immerses the viewer in this scene. The camera shakes as if it's trying to look away but is compelled to witness the horror and of what is happening. This shows the oppression the aliens face, they can't even reproduce without humans trying to ruin it for fun. This

manipulates the audience response because it changes how humans are then viewed in this movie, invoking reflection on whether aliens are the bad guys or if maybe it's the humans. A real world example of this is how in concentration camps, Nazis would burn and gas Jews while laughing and being happy as they feel as if they're getting rid of scum from the earth. This also mirrors the apartheid as it shows how badly black people would've been treated as well, forced to live in their own segregated run down area and often killed for no reason as well.

Another language feature Neil Blomkamp uses to manipulate the audience's response is the use of alien dialogue. Christopher Johnson, the main alien, opens his door to find MNU workers intruding on his home trying to force him to sign eviction notices, saying they're a good thing. Christopher tries to be reasonable and communicate with the humans using clicks and hisses but Wikus arrogantly says, "We need to contain them." By Wikus saying, "We need to contain them," it represents corporate greed and corruption, MNU wants to move and contain the aliens in a worse area all for the sake of more money. Christopher tries to understand what is going on and wants to communicate with them, but MNU don't care about the feelings or thoughts of others, only money. This alien dialogue manipulates the audience's response because it exposes the true intentions of MNU, they're fueled by greed, corruption, and money, while the aliens want cohesion and prosperity. This invokes reflection from the viewer as they realise that the ones in this movie showing the most humanity are not the humans, but the aliens. This also shows themes of xenophobia, oppression, and marginalisation and shows how oppressed and looked down on the aliens are, even in their own home. This can be compared to The Treaty of Waitangi, European settlers become greedy and want all the Maori's land so they trick them into signing a treaty which gives them land. Due to mistranslation the Maori's sign it thinking it's a good thing but then realise they've been deceived and end up in a bad position leading due to future centuries of pain.

Fear and suspense can so often turn empathy into cruelty. A final language feature used is the use of sound effects in the final showdown. Wikus has pretty much turned into an alien and can take control of alien tech. He is using this alien tech to fight off MNU and help buy time for Christopher Johnson and his son to escape back into the mother-ship. In this fight scene, sounds of heavy machinery whirring, alien tech, footsteps, and explosions dominate the scene while the soundtrack heightens, increasing suspense. The use of sound effects here show the chaos of the scene and the highly powerful alien technology. Visually, the use of shaky handheld camera shots immerse the audience in the scene and extreme cuts heighten suspense. The alien tech sounds and whirring symbolises the control that MNU crave, the greed they have to want this alien tech. This manipulates the audience's response as it shows that MNU are only interested in power and wealth which can be compared to many big companies today. They want control of this alien tech so they can dominate whoever they want and their opposition won't have suitable equipment to resist. An example of this is when European settlers colonised New Zealand, they had guns while Maori's had sticks and spears and were easily able to overpower them.

In the film District 9, directed by Neil Blomkamp in 2009, themes of xenophobia, oppression, and marginalisation are shown towards the aliens. Blomkamp uses many language features to manipulate the audience's response, invoking reflection on who the true aliens are. He also makes metaphoric comparisons to how black people were treated in the apartheid in South Africa. Some of these language features include, handheld documentary style filming, alien dialogue, and sound effects. These combined invoke reflection from the audience on how the ones in the movie showing the most humanity are actually the aliens. Blomkamp leaves the audience with one final haunting question; if aliens came tomorrow, would we treat them better than we treat ourselves?

Merit

Subject: English

Standard: 91099

Total score: 06

Grade score	Marker commentary
M6	This response demonstrates understanding of technique use unpacked in quite a sophisticated manner. By what means these techniques manipulated audience response needed to be stronger for an Excellence response, but still covered with some detail, linking to shared real world experiences.