

# AS91475: Writing Portfolio

Version 1

3.4: Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains and structures ideas.

6 Credits

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas.	Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas and is <b>convincing</b> .	Produce a selection of fluent and coherent writing which develops, sustains, and structures ideas and <b>commands attention</b> .

**Twist on Tragedy: *Black Swan***

## Outline

After delving into the darkness that is *Black Swan*, this task offers you the chance to explore what makes up a modern tragedy.

Throughout our study, we have explored, discussed and debated how the film presents the issues which surround the contemporary woman and the constant struggle to attain the standard of perfection that society demands. The result is what we have come to term as 'the tragedy of striving for perfection'.

### Develop a response to the following statement:

***Critically analyse how Aronofsky manipulates the traditional conventions of tragedy for a particular purpose.***

## Preparation

- Review your notes on the history of tragedy and its common conventions. Ensure that you have revised the slides from earlier in the year and are fluent with the tragedy terminology.
- Ensure your notes on *Black Swan* are completely up to date using the resources from the blog. Also look to re-read the critical reviews that we read and discussed last term.
- Decide on the 'particular purpose' you wish to analyse and consider the following:
  - How is this purpose achieved (cinematography techniques, tragedy conventions)? Pinpoint your specific examples from the text and rewatch the scenes/moments which apply to your work.
  - Consider how, in your selected examples, traditional tragedy conventions have been manipulated. Think about what they bring, in terms of depth of meaning, to the text and its ideas.

- Reflect on the 'why' behind Aronfosky's choices in the film.
- Consider the role of contemporary society on these choices and the purpose of the text.
- Evaluate the outcome for the audience. What is achieved, for the viewers, in this film?
- Plan the structure of your analysis:
  - A clear introduction, body and conclusion.
  - Effective paragraphing.
  - A logical progression of ideas.
- Consider the conventions of analytical writing such as:
  - Outlining a clear thesis
  - The use of transitional and connective words and phrases
  - The use of language devices (metaphor, analogy, imagery etc.) to build on your ideas, present your opinion or clarify your argument.
  - The use of quotations and technical examples with clear explanations of how these develop your thoughts.
  - Effective syntax which allows you to build, connect and develop ideas.

## The Final Piece

### Size

Once your initial research and preparation is complete, your final piece should be written in the form of an essay. In order to keep your work focused, there is a word limit of 1500 words for this essay.

### Conditions

The drafting and editing of your piece will happen in class over **8 periods**. You may use any notes you have created during our exploration of *Black Swan* and you may seek feedback during the first 4 periods of writing. After this time, your teacher will be "hands off" and it will be up to you to polish your work.

## Scope

Your proficiency with spelling, grammar and punctuation will aid the clear and effective communication of your argument, as will conforming to a clear structure with your writing.

## Advice

You are advised to refer to the critical readings and essays that you have been exposed to during our study of *Black Swan* to refine your understanding of how an analysis can be constructed effectively.

You are encouraged to seek advice from your teacher early in the drafting process to ensure you are on the right track.

Consider how to split your time between what you want to say in your essay and how you say it. It is wise to remember that this is a writing assessment so **how** you convey your ideas and the effectiveness of this is essential to your success in this assessment.