

ETS 142
UNIT I: SUBJECTIVITY
SAVE THE LAST DANCE ANALYSIS

Directions: Record your observations based on the [clips](#) posted to Vimeo. Use these to decide on a focus for your response paper and to help consider the text as a whole.

An overview of the clips and the story: The first 50 minutes of the film introduce all of the major and minor characters and the various settings. Clips 1-8 thoroughly cover this territory. Immediately prior to the action in clip 9, Derek received a letter informing him he had been accepted to Georgetown. Clip 9 takes place on the way to Derek's surprise – he takes Sarah to the Joffrey Ballet. After the clip, Derek gets Sarah to open up about her mother's death and why she quit ballet, and the evening ends with a sexual encounter in Sarah's father's apartment. The rest of the film tracks the development of the three plot lines: the relationship between Derek and Sarah (several of their friends make it difficult for the relationship to continue and cause a momentary breakup, but Sarah's father is completely neutral at all times); Sarah's return to dance in preparation for another Julliard audition; and Derek's struggle to support Malakai as a friend while not getting involved in his criminal lifestyle. These events are summarized in clips 10-12. Clip 13 compresses Sarah's final audition. After it, there's one "last dance" at Steps.

I. Exposition – establishing characters and settings:

Protagonist #1 – Sarah:

1. How is she characterized in the beginning of the film (clips 1-3)? What are her main traits? (Remember to consider the various methods of indirect characterization – appearance, action, other's reactions, thoughts/emotions, speech.)
2. Describe the environment(s) she occupied before moving to Chicago:
3. What sort of subjectivity does she have as the story opens? What subject position(s) does she occupy?

Protagonist #2 – Derek:

4. How is he characterized in the beginning of the film (clips 3-8)? What are his main traits?

5. Describe the environment(s) he occupies:

6. What sort of subjectivity does he have as the story opens? What subject position(s) does he occupy?

II. The story arcs – problems and resolutions:

A. First, describe the problem(s) faced by the following characters; include, as needed, notes on how/why a given problem is suited to a particular character because of his/her subjectivity.

B. Then, describe the character's response – his/her agency. Include notes about the options the character sees for him/herself, the character traits or circumstances that make it easy or difficult for the character to address the problem(s), etc.

7. Sarah

Problem(s):
Agency – Response(s):
Resolution:

8. Derek

Problem(s):
Agency – Response(s):
Resolution:

9. Chenille

Problem(s):
Agency – Response(s):
Resolution:

10. Malakai

Problem(s):
Agency – Response(s):
Resolution: