Writing a mini review, take 2! NAME: **MODEL**

**DIRECTIONS**: Think of a movie, any movie, to review. Highlight TWO elements from the list of specific aspects of film to consider in a review. Next, write a mini review addressing each of those two elements you highlighted. Provide a specific for each element as you explain why you liked/disliked the movie. Be sure to move beyond plot summary; explain how the specific film element impacted your reaction, your interest, the meaning of a scene, the meaning of the whole film, etc. Write 5-7 sentences.

FILM: *Mean Girls*

MINI REVIEW (5-7 sentences): The 80s had *The Breakfast Club* as its ultimate portrayal of the high school experience, but the 90s came through with *Mean Girls*, which I love even more. Whether you were a jock, a band member, a nerd, or a popular student, you can see yourself somewhere in the film as it reflects trying to discover who you are and where you fit in. For instance, new student Cady wears the zombie bride outfit to the Halloween party only to feel embarrassed in front of her crush, Aaron, because the cool teen girls use the holiday as an excuse to dress in skimpy clothes. I wanted Cady to be able to melt away and be invisible to save her from feeling stupid. We all know what it feels like to try so hard to fit only to feel even more isolate. Other costumes are similarly iconic; from Tina Fey’s TGI Friday’s uniform with the red and white striped shirt and the goofy buttons on suspenders to the Plastics’ Santa outfits, the film seems to question whether being “unique” is really even a thing. I think the movie looks at a fine line between wanting to stand out versus wanting to blend in and be accepted, which makes it so relatable and enjoyable.

**NOTE:**

* **This mini review blends costumes and universality**
* **It has specifics.**
* **It is 6 sentences long.**

Writing with Specificity

**Ways in which your mini-review can move**

**beyond “Loved It/Hated It”**

* **Characters**
* Development (full, dynamic, believable,

stereotypes)

* Interaction with others
* **Plot**
* Predictable
* Twists
* Climactic moments
* Relatable aspects/universality
* Underdeveloped (left you asking questions)
* **Genre or Era**
* Identify genre/era and how the film did/

did not fit those conventions

* **Technique**
* Lighting (dark, light and effect)
* Angles
* Tracking
* Focus
* Shot (long, medium, close)
* **Dialogue**
* Realistic
* Offensive
* Dialect
* **Acting**
* Movie well cast?
* Natural
* Actors’ chemistry
* **Miscellaneous**
* Pacing
* Comparison between book and movie
* Comparison between this movie and

director’s/actor’s other work

* Special effects
* Soundtrack
* Theme
* Make-up
* Costumes
* Other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_