Don’t forget to MLA format your essay

This is an essay created from VARIOUS essays; the purpose is to help you structure your essay and generate ideas. DO NOT read a paragraph that covers your film.

INTRO: From a *Top Gun* essay

Ronald Reagan’s *Top Gun*

Strong, proud, and loyal, these are some of the most common characteristics of a hero. They act swiftly to help with those in danger and will never back down. They oppose those they find evil, but will always find time to honour their country. President Ronald Reagan would be considered a hero under those terms. With his sweeping campaign against communism and his strong support for the military, Reagan and the USA policed the world to rid it of its evil. His influence penetrated not only America, but was subliminally exported throughout the world after being incorporated into some of the biggest box-office hits of the 1980s. With its overt militarism theme and starring some of the most famous celebrities, *Top Gun* flaunted its support for the Reagan administration. The movie *Top Gun* supports the Reagan ideology by portraying it through a series of themes and issues such as anti-communism, anti-feminism, patriotism and nationalism, heroism and militarism.

BODY PAR. #1 From a *Blade Runner* essay

Reagan led an era often referred to as the “Reagan Revolution”; one that tried to restore faith to America and proposed major tax cuts to reduce inflation and boost the economy (Troy). Ironically, those that benefitted the most from these tax cuts were the rich, expanding the gap between social classes. After cuts to social-welfare programs were made, the president of the American Federation of Teachers, Albert Shanker, called Reagan “Robin Hood in reverse”, further stating “The money is going to come from those who have the least and it’s going to those who have the most” (Kahlenberg). Perhaps Reagan’s most famous belief is that which he expressed in his inaugural speech: “In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem” (Heritage Foundation). This is the case in *Blade Runner* asgovernment power is completely overshadowed by corporate power. Advertisements are shown covering the city on blimps and billboards the size of buildings. Tyrell Corp*,* the company responsible for manufacturing the replicants, holds even more power than the police. While the police station is shown to be crowded and dimly lit, Tyrell’s headquarters is a giant pyramid with glass elevators operating on the outside, and sunlight shining through its glass walls. Pyramids are a symbol of great power and accomplishment, built to be the tombs of kings. They reflect Reagan’s economic policies as they were used in a time when the upper and lower classes were completely distinct from each other. The overall dark, sombre, mood of the film and the way the country is presented contradicts Reagan’s vision of a clear and optimistic future.

BODY PAR. #2. From a *Back to the Future* essay.

The lack of a powerful and realistic female voice in the film aligns with Reagan’s depiction of women that results from his disconnect with them. He slashed spending on social welfare, food stamps, low-income housing, school lunches for poor children, and Medicaid—the essentials for single moms to meet the basic needs of their family (“Reagan Presidency”). He warned the public about the “welfare queen”—a woman who abuses the welfare system, thus assigning a stigma on single moms who are unable to support themselves and their children, and was pro-life (Blake; Mayor; “Ronald Reagan against Abortion”). Despite having appointed the first woman Supreme Court Justice, Reagan failed to appeal to many female voters as he opposed the Equal Rights Amendment which proposed equality of rights under the law for both sexes (“Reagan Presidency”; Conger 1). Lorraine, the main female character, desires for a male who can “stand up for himself” and “protect the women he loves” (Zemeckis, Back to the Future). Marty’s maneuvers on the skateboard that he has improvised out of a soapbox scooter while eluding an enraged Biff awes Lorraine. Likewise, she falls in love with George when he rescues her from Biff’s aggressive advances. Her love is flimsy and comical, for she becomes infatuated with whomever her father injures—including her own son. Incidentally, her fortune changes with George’s, as she no longer binge drinks or smokes in the altered timeline. Similarly, Marty’s girlfriend, Jennifer, encourages Marty to pursue his dreams, compliments him on his performance, brightens up Marty’s day with her love, and does little else. The purpose of Lorraine and Jennifer is to accompany their men: they are not independent women that opposed Reagan’s domestic views.

BODY PAR #3. From a Rocky IV essay.

In an attempt to modify relations with the Soviet Union, Reagan approached his foreign policy by implicating anti-communist opposition in Europe. Although this advance took a stance against both Communist and Socialist governments, Reagan believed an affluent economy and free market would influence the Soviets policies. Throughout *Rocky IV*, heavyweight fighter Ivan Drago is a clear representation of the USSR’s contentious bearing in regards to the United States. The pre-fight performances during each match exhibit the difference between the USA’s patriotic, “red, white, and blue” accession, and the USSR’s militaristic, solemn regime. The United States’, flashy, Vegas-inspired performance, fit with showgirls and a rendition of, “Living in America” during Apollo’s match against Drago contrasts the Soviet Unions, mock-dictatorship opening during the final, Christmas Day fight. By including a salute from various military officials towards a large portrait of Drago, these displays of cultural diversity exemplify the differences between a Republican government in the USA, and a highly communist power in the USSR. These examples support Reagan’s attempt to influence the Soviets with a prosperous economy, through an extravagant, ostentatious stadium fit with lights, music, and stars and stripes. This array contrasts the USSR’s dismal, grey warehouse, exemplifying the Soviets lack of exorbitant goods. By creating an environment that supports free market, the United States establishes how much greater their country is, and used this time as an opportunity to outshine the USSR. Although each is an attempt to appear superior to their opposition, it is evident that the USA’s endeavor is a pursuit to prove their thriving economy.

CONCLUSION, From a *Red Dawn* essay.

Many of the values Reagan held dear were presented in *Red Dawn* so overtly that proof of its support for the Reagan Administration can be found right from the opening lines. From anti-communism to individual freedom to the support of guerrilla fighters, the support for these topics is what define both the film and the Reagan Administration. This is clear in the way that they both presented these principles so that they sounded like common sense, rather than political viewpoints. That film, which symbolizes simple carefree entertainment to many, can be used in such a manipulative way brings awareness to the fact that media is always trying to sell an idea to the public. It is important to be skeptical and question not only what or who the themes, characters, plot and other important elements in a film are, but why the film has chosen to present these things in the way that it has; it is important to acknowledge that ideas come from influence and that any form of influence, especially film, will almost always be able to plant its ideology into a viewer who does not think critically.