

## **Study Guide:**

1. Make clear and concise claims and use examples from both films and articles to back up those claims.
2. Don't be chatty or redundant.
3. Avoid the absolute. Someone can present a strong argument, and you can choose to believe it, but you can't state that it's the truth or that the director is absolutely objective. There is no such thing, and all operate from a subjective standpoint. Instead, articulate why you find it a believable interpretation, and mention what sources, quotes, and video footage support your conclusion. Maybe back up this argument further with the reading. For example: instead of saying "director Ayelet Heller wanted to tell audiences the truth about the Yemenites in Kinneret," say: "Director Ayelet Heller asked audiences to consider the Yemenite's point of view, a narrative that has been silenced thus far." You can also say: "she challenged the notion that history presents only one truth, by bringing multiple narratives and voices to the text of the film."
4. Please engage with the reading material. Use at least THREE sources from the reading per question. You can quote each source multiple times, but still use at least three sources.
5. Don't make broad statements without backing them up with specific examples. It's fine to say "The Unpromised Land makes the viewer consider another viewpoint", but you need to explain why, specifically, you came to that conclusion. What, exactly, leads viewers to this new viewpoint?

6. Cite sources including articles that I have assigned, or material you have found on your own. Students frequently make statements that should be cited, without a reference to the source. If you didn't research the Israeli media, you can't say anything about them without attribution to a source. Say: "according to [source], the Israeli media often distorted or altogether silenced the Yemenite Babies Affair."
7. When you cite, please be accurate! When you use a direct quote from an article/book, you must include a page number.
8. Please use APA style. Here is a useful link for general APA guidelines:  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>
9. Use an active voice whenever possible, and avoid verbose language or stating the obvious. For example, "in the film there is also archival footage of ..." (We know it's a film with archival footage). Save your words for analysis or description and jump right in: "Archival footage shows..."
10. When you mention someone from the film, characterize that person. Even if you don't remember the name, give them an identifying quality. For example: "A kibbutz member, or a Yemenite woman in her late 40's said..." Or "a community activist from [place] said he remembers..."
11. Direct quotes are powerful – make good use of them.
12. Don't write super long sentences. This is often a sign of weak writing.
13. Don't use the third person *you*. Instead refer to *audiences* or *viewers*. Being familiar or chatty with the reader is no substitute for vigorous writing. For example, a student wrote: "The Yemenite Jew can talk about the deportation

calmly and just give *you* this poetic description of the land in which can make *you* feel like you are actually there, feeling their struggle.” (32 words). This phrasing is weak and the writer’s point is lost.

**Better:** Interviews with Yemenite Jews were vivid and powerful.

Testimonies, coupled with dramatic music, made viewers feel their deep connection and love for the land. (26 words)

Most importantly: I want to see **analysis**, not description or repetition of the obvious. Good analysis interprets an issue with a discussion of facts to give events contexts; an analysis may be opinionated, but still well supported and well documented. Your opinion is not going to determine your grade – only the quality of your argument.

Here is an analytical paragraph that integrates evidence from a film and refers to an article:

In the film *Kadim Wind* (Israel 2002), director David Ben Chetrit uses powerful archival footage featuring Israeli government officials including former Prime Minister and president Shimon Peres. In one scene, Peres is seen yelling at Mizrahi protesters, calling them “savages” and “hateful.” This scene demonstrated the condescending Orientalist attitudes espoused by Zionist leaders, past and present, towards Mizrahim. As Shohat (1988) noted, Mizrahim are often seen as merely unintelligent, and not worthy of participating in a rational Western dialogue.