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Period 7

3/22/19

Rules for Review:

David Sims is a culture writer for *The Atlantic*; specializing in movie reviews. I took inspiration from his reviews of [A Star is Born](#) and [Captain Marvel](#) to write my review.

1. Sims begins all his reviews with a tantalizing title accompanied by a hook directly below. Upon clicking on the article you can immediately tell his opinion on the movie, and are drawn in to what he has to say in the rest of the review. For example, the title of the *Captain Marvel* article reads, “The Greatest Strength of Captain Marvel Is Also Its Biggest Weakness”, and is followed by the hook saying, “The 21st entry in the famous cinematic universe is alternately lifted up and dragged down by the central mystery of its hero’s true origins”. The hook gives slight explanation about the peculiar title. This effectively intrigues the reader, and created a desire to read on.
2. Sims articles are short and sweet capping at about two pages. While his information is extremely efficient, he provides an opportunity to gather more information through the use of hyperlinks. In the review of *A Star is Born*, he includes a hyperlink for an article about Old Hollywood movies. *A Star is Born* is a remake of a older movie, so the articles gives information about that time period and what movies were like compared to now.

Hyperlinks are vital in allowing the reader to find more information about the topic. In addition, it shows that there is a basis to the information the author is giving the reader.

3. A major component of the review is the summary. Sim provides a synopsis of the movies to give them an idea of what the movie will be about. In the review of a *Star is Born* he describes the movie's tale of a famous pop-star meeting Aly, a broke waitress and their journey of love and music together. This will give the reader an inkling as to if it's something they will like, and explain what is being reviewed. It is vital for the reader to understand what is being discussed.
4. Sims also gives background on the actor and directors by discussing their previous and current work. In the review of *Captain Marvel*, Sims describes Bri Larson's career and reveals that "Larson, an incredibly gifted actress, did flooring and heartfelt work in films such as *Short Term 12* and *Room*." By giving background on the key figures in the movie-making, the reader can get an idea of the quality of a movie. When an actor or director has done good work in the past it provides ethos and shows the likelihood of the next movie being good as well.
5. Based on whether he liked the movie or not, Sims gives evidence and explanation as to why the movie had problems or why it was a success. He says that in *Captain Marvel*, "Most of the subsequent battles have similar problems—they're choppily edited and difficult to visually track". This provides a clear example of how the editing style negatively impacted his movie experience. However, he commends the movie for the frequent change in setting and the light-hearted 90's references which he felt was "unlike so many Marvel movies of late that had a concrete sort of sameness in scenes set in the

“real world””. As a writer it is important to elaborate on your opinion and have evidence for your claim. Seeing as Sims did this, his piece was very effective in analyzing the details of the movie.

Free Solo Climbs It’s Way to the Top of the Movie Charts; Literally.

This movie follows Alex Honnold as he tries to be the first to climb the vertical, 900 meter tall, El Capitan at Yosemite Park. Did I mention, he has no ropes?

Everyone knows the exhilarating feeling of success after you climbed that huge tree in the neighbors yard. Your fingers pulsing from clutching on to the branches too tight. Then, the feeling at the top branch of the tree where you can admire the view from the 30 foot climb. Sure it may be nerve racking finding a branch that is sturdy, or making sure both of your feet will fit on the branch to pull you up, but you knew the aftermath of falling might just be a few bruises. Now imagine you are climbing another tree. This time it’s 900 feet high, and if you fall you’re dead. Oh, and, the tree is vertical with holds small enough to fit your finger tips. Just like the first tree, you have no ropes and no way to keep you from falling. For most people, this seems like an impossible task that they have no desire of completing. For Alex Honnold this was his dream. He is a free soloist which means he climbs without any ropes or harnesses. The movie, *Free Solo*, follows Honnold’s journey to climbing [El Capitan](#) in Yosemite Park; a slippery rock that holds possible life-ending results.

My first taste of *Free Solo* was during the Academy Awards. I was sitting in my living room tempted to switch of the television as a trail of boring nominations droned on. I told myself I would watch a few more to see if something caught my eye. Just so happens the next award was for Best Documentary Film. The television dimmed and the trailer for *Free Solo* appeared on the screen. Upon seeing the trailer, I immediately wanted to watch the movie. My first thought was I need to see who this nut job is and why on Earth he would risk his life just to climb a rock. Then, I wondered how he was going to conquer this task and if it was even humanly possible to do so. I rounded up my family and told them that we were having a mandatory movie night the next day. My expectations were quite high considering the prestigious award it just won and the quality of the trailer. Pretty soon, my family and I had popped the popcorn and settled down with our blankets on the couch. The lights were off and the atmosphere was silent as if we were seeing the film in theatres. We were captivated the entire 96 minutes.

My immediate attention fell upon the actor, [Alex Honnold](#), who was playing himself. He is 33 years old and born in Sacramento, California. He lives quite a different lifestyle; spending his life living in a camping bus which he calls home. Free climbing is his passion, and he has been traveling the world conquering different heights. His fascination with El Capitan started as a kid when his parents would take him to Yosemite, but he quickly distanced himself from his family when he left to live alone at age 16. His diet consisted of fruit, vegetables, and carbs which he whips up on his tiny camper sink. If he's not climbing his days are spend with rigorous training. One of his favorite exercises I like to call finger death. No this isn't actually the death of his fingers. It's essentially doing a pull-up with your finger tips; a seemingly impossible task to

me. The audience also got a taste of his relationship life. We got to follow the relationship between Alex and his girlfriend, Sanni McCandless. By watching the internal struggles she dealt with in regards to his climbing, the audience was able to picture themselves in her situation. If my loved one was free soloing I would be scared out of my mind. I enjoyed learned about Alex's background and relationship, because I felt more invested in what would happen. I felt myself filled with worry as he took the first step onto the mountain. The build up was wildly effective and stressful.

A major component to the movies was the visuals and camera work. [The team](#) shooting Alex was composed of professional climbers who climbed alongside him. As a result, the movie was overflowing with surreal images of the mountain and Honnold's climbs. One shot that stands out in my mind is when Alex was practicing a particular move with ropes. The camera men showed a view from Alex's perspective. What was shown was a seemingly flat surface that he would have to hold on to. Next to him was a rock that he would have to jump and grab. The camera crew then panned out to show Alex, 200 feet above the ground, jumping, and grabbing on to the rock to the left. One slip and he would've been plunging to the forest below. Even the videographers said they were nervous shooting these potentially dangerous shots. Being able to not only hear about the aspects of his climbs but seeing them as well make the experience so much more impactful.

This movie absolutely exceeded my expectations. I watched it with my family, and would recommend this to people of almost all ages. There is only a few curse words, but other than that no violence or inappropriate content. If you are someone who enjoys outdoors and adventure then you will particularly love this movie. Even if you aren't, you'll enjoy it too! My mom is

very much an indoor, air conditioning person, and she loved it. There are romance aspects, friendship, adventure, and an overall powerful story. There is no audience that won't be mesmerized. I could not think of better film to showcases the importance of determination and persistence when trying to accomplish a goal. The film showed me that when things seem impossible you can make them possible. As Honnold once said, "each day, there is a chance you might die. And there's nothing wrong with that," so shoot for the stars and don't be afraid to fall. Alex Honnold sure wasn't.