

# Sample Milestone #1 -- Topic Write-Up and 3 Sources with Annotations

Smith 1

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ENG 103 – The Research Paper  
Milestone #1 – Topic Write-Up and 3 Sources  
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## The Portrayal of Autism in *Temple Grandin*

For my research paper, I will explore how the autism is portrayed in the 2010 HBO film *Temple Grandin*. This award-winning film presents the life of Temple Grandin as she grows up, gets an education – including a PhD – and starts a successful career designing more humane ‘slaughterhouse systems’ for livestock. The film ends with her ‘discovery’ as a powerful spokesperson for autism rights. Because of her autism, Grandin can visualize how the animals see the chutes and gates, so they remain calm. In an amazing performance by Claire Danes (most recently of *Homeland*), we see how a person with autism can be “different not less” (*Temple Grandin*). I will examine the clinical symptoms, treatments and outcomes of autism from encyclopedias and other sources and compare these to the film’s telling of Grandin’s story. Some research questions could be: Are most autistics as successful as Temple Grandin? Does the film present her life story accurately? Does the film show us the real symptoms and thinking style (‘thinking in pictures’) of real autism? Does the film’s uplifting moral (or message) about Temple Grandin’s amazing story fair and accurate or does it exaggerate? This paper will contrast the facts of autism (and Asperger’s) against this positive and inspirational film, which was reviewed favorably by critics and scholars.

Mention  
your  
main  
text  
film  
book

It's okay to  
use some 1st  
person 'I' for  
this first  
milestone –  
this doesn't  
have to be in  
the 'correct'  
formal voice  
yet!

A few  
research  
questions

**COMPARE FILM (TEMPLE GRANDIN) VS.  
FACTS (ABOUT AUTISM)**

# 3 sources - MLA Style

## Works Cited

Hinckley, David. "Great Dane Lifts Temple." *The New York Daily News*, 05 Feb. 2010, p. 94.

FILM  
REVIEW  
→

LexisNexis. Accessed 2 Oct. 2016.

This journalistic article is a film review of this movie. It is largely positive on the portrayal of Temple Grandin by Claire Danes. The reviewer doesn't go into much detail on the film.

Annotations

3  
sent.

Kingston, Anna Karin. "Autism." Encyclopedia of Motherhood, Edited by Andrea

O'Reilly, Vol. 1, *SAGE Reference*, 2010, pp. 94-95. *Gale Virtual General*

*Reference Collection*. Accessed 16 Sep. 2016.

This encyclopedia article discusses the real condition of autism, including causes and symptoms. It discusses different theories of what causes autism. I will use this article for background on the real facts of autism to compare them to the movie's portrayal of this condition.

about  
each  
source

*Temple Grandin*. Directed by Mick Jackson, performances by Claire Danes, Julia Ormond,

and David Strathairn, HBO Home Video, 2010.

This is the film and main text for my paper. This inspirational film explores the life and struggles and triumphs of the real Temple Grandin. It is largely accurate in its depiction of the real Grandin, but there are some areas that can be discussed as exaggerated or slightly inaccurate in the style of an 'uplifting' Hollywood movie.

FILM

**\*\*Note: We'll be using MLA 8th edition for our Works Cited entries for this class.**