

Glossary

Component 1 - Section C: US Independent Film

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Coming-of-age	The "coming-of-age" genre, also known as bildungsroman, focuses on the protagonist's journey from childhood to adulthood, emphasizing their personal growth, self-discovery, and the challenges of navigating adolescence
Specialist writing	'What Makes a Film Independent?' by Rona Murray – we will study this specialist writing and response to evaluation and critique-led questions about the writing using evidence from <i>Lady Bird</i> .
Narrative beat	A story beat is a shift in the narrative. Story beats can be emotional turns, incidents or events, actions, and reactions, or realizations. Essentially, beats are small moments that move the story forward.
Independent/ indie cinema	An independent film, or indie film, is a movie produced outside the major film studio system. It's typically made with smaller budgets and often features a more personal or unconventional approach to storytelling, driven by the filmmaker's artistic vision.
Independent/ indie film studio	An independent film studio refers to a production company that operates outside the control of major Hollywood studios. These studios typically have smaller budgets and prioritize artistic vision and creative freedom over commercial success. They are not affiliated with the large, established film studios that dominate the mainstream movie industry.
Mainstream cinema	Refers to commercially successful films, typically produced by major studios and distributed widely in theaters, aiming to appeal to a broad audience. They often feature big budgets, well-known actors, and established genres, prioritizing entertainment and box office success over artistic experimentation.
Major film studio	A production and film distributor that releases a substantial number of films annually, and consistently commands a significant share of box office revenue in many markets. The current major film studios operating in Hollywood are: Warner Brothers, 20 th Century Fox, Paramount, Universal Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Walt Disney Studios.
Genre	The categorization of films into stylistic groups based on shared characteristics, typically including shared ways of using iconography, characters, visual style (aesthetic), narrative, themes & issues and setting.
Convention	The established characteristics and key elements that films in a specific genre use.
Conventionality	The extent to which a film from a particular genre uses the conventions of that genre. A coming-of-age film's conventionality is high if it follows the same conventions as other films from the same genre.
Industry Context	Refers to the surrounding circumstances that influence a film's meaning, including the film industry factors surrounding its production. Understanding the context helps viewers interpret a film's themes, characters, and narrative more deeply, revealing the filmmaker's intentions and the film's impact on its audience. As part of the industry context, we might consider who directed a film? Was it their first film, or were they already established? What were their intentions for the film?
Republican Party	One of the main US political parties (the other being democratic), favouring a right-wing (traditional) stance, limited central government and tough foreign policy. Republican president Dwight D. Eisenhower was in office from 1953-1961 and Ronald Reagan was in office from 1981-1989. In hindsight, Eisenhower had a less intense Republican administration compared to Reagan in the 1980s.
Conservative views	Seek to uphold traditional family structures and social values. Religious conservatives typically oppose abortion, LGBT behavior (or, in certain cases, identity), drug use, and sexual activity outside of marriage.

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Left-wing	In politics, "left-wing" generally refers to a set of ideologies that prioritize social equality and egalitarianism, often in opposition to social hierarchies.
Feminism/ feminist ideologies	The theory or social movement that advocate for equality between men and women.
Patriarchy	a system of society or government in which the father or eldest male is head of the family and descent is reckoned through the male line.
Conservative Christian values	These values generally promote the authority of scripture, and a commitment to traditional family structures and morality. They frequently hold socially conservative views on issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage, and gender roles.
American Dream	The idea that every person has the freedom and opportunity to succeed and attain a better life.
Gender roles	the role or behaviour considered to be appropriate to a particular gender as determined by prevailing cultural norms. These roles dictate how men and women are expected to act, dress, and behave within a specific culture.