



# Do you think outside the box?



**01 Write your own definition of “independent.”**  
Compare your definition with a classmate’s.



**02 Read “Not So in the Spotlight.” Write the name of the film genre and its definition.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ films try out artsy techniques in filming and are at the forefront of cinematic innovations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ movies are gritty and use gore to engage audiences and tell stories.
- \_\_\_\_\_ show live footage of events or interviews to tell stories.



**03 Write a definition for each of the following words.**

< 1. mainstream >

< 2. storytelling >

< 3. gore >

< 4. footage >

< 5. artsy >

< 6. forefront >

## Not So in the Spotlight

Unlike **mainstream** film, independent cinema allows writers and directors to showcase unique perspectives and alternative **storytelling** techniques. Since major studios don’t sponsor indie films, they can redefine genres. Budgetary constraints are a small price to pay to allow filmmakers to have control over all aspects of their movies.

Horror movies thrive in the independent market. Some filmmakers blame Hollywood for glossing over the **gore** and special effects, making the movies less realistic. However, horror movie fans love the grit and grime associated with an authentic horror story, which is easier to provide with a low budget. *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre* was filmed in 1974 for less than \$150,000 but grossed millions at the box office due to its popularity.

Unlike other movie genres, documentaries blend storytelling with real life. They may contain interviews with people knowledgeable about a topic or real-life **footage** of an event. Documentaries inform audiences about a historical event or provide someone’s biographical information. Documentaries may try to convince the audience of something, such as *Super Size Me* (2004), a film about a man who measured the consequences of eating at a fast-food chain for every meal for a month.

Often labeled weird or **artsy**, experimental films go beyond the norms of everyday film and have usually been at the **forefront** of significant changes in cinema, even if they didn’t have commercial or popular success at the time. Experimental filmmakers explore using light, motion, space, and time to express their vision. One well-known example is *Eraserhead* (1977), directed by David Lynch. It is about a man discovering his baby is a mutant lizard.



**04 With a classmate, discuss the following questions.**

- › Which of the movie genres from the text have you seen? What do you remember about the movies you saw?
- › If you haven’t seen them, which ones would you prefer to watch and why?



**05** Write “C” if the sentences are correct. Write “I” if they’re incorrect. Correct them and write a brief explanation.

- |  |                          |                      |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Lily waltzed into the room like she was in charge.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. To make the fake blood, Ian liquid very ripe tomatoes.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. Her face ballooned up after getting stung by a bee during the filming.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 4. The director ban all animals on the set, but the stars still brought in their dogs every day. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. The producer apology for offending the audience with his controversial remarks.               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| 6. The stunt actors arrangement to rehearse the stunt before the shoot.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="text"/> |



**06** Rewrite the sentences so that the new sentences use the words in parentheses as a verb.

- The reviewer provided a comparison of the two films. (compare)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The rehearsal stretched on for hours. (rehearse)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The director took a private jet and got off the plane in Paris. (deplane)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- I sent the writer an email with my suggestions. (email)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The fisherman used a lure to catch the fish. (lure)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The movie script was put on hold. (shelf)  
\_\_\_\_\_

**07** Write a text comparing an indie film you have seen with a mainstream one.

**08** In a small group, design a game show about independent cinema. Use the points below to help you brainstorm how to create your show.

- › Will it be digital or paper-based?
- › How do contestants win, and what do they win?
- › Will they answer questions or complete the blanks?
- › Will you follow a popular game show format or invent your own?

