

Writing a Permission Slip for Viewing an R-rated Movie

Permission slips for R-rated movies should include the following in the text:

- Title of movie
- Why it is rated “R” (according to the Motion Picture Association of America)
- How the teacher plans to modify the movie (per district policy, R-rated movies may **NOT** be shown in their entirety)
- What classes the movie will be shown to and how long it should take to view it
- What curricular support does the movie provide (district and/or state standards)
- What assignment is associated with this viewing (i.e. viewing guide/questions on test/writing assignment based on viewing, etc.)
- Alternative assignment for those students whose parents do not give permission (not just that there will be an alternative assignment, but what the assignment is and where students will be sent to complete it)

EXAMPLE:

September 6, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

During the week of September 19-23, 2018, I plan on showing *Amistad*, a movie based on the true story of a group of enslaved Africans as a part of my US History classes’ study of the slave trade and abolitionism in America. The movie is rated “R” because there are some scenes of strong, brutal violence and some related nudity; I will be excluding as many of those scenes as possible without compromising the plot. I will alert students to any scenes that I cannot exclude. The movie is 2 hours and 35 minutes—it should take four class days to view; students will be completing a viewing guide which we will use for subsequent class discussion of slavery as well as the American justice system in the United States in the mid-1800s.

Students who are not given permission to view *Amistad* will be completing *The Amistad Case*, a lesson that includes reading the narrative of the *Amistad* incident, studying a timeline of slavery and abolitionism, and composing an essay based on three documents I will be providing them. These students will be spending the four days in the library completing this assignment. It will be used in the class discussion regarding slavery as well as the American justice system in the United States in the mid-1800s.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at imateacher@tempeunion.org or leave a message on my voicemail 000123. Thank you.

Sincerely, Ima Teacher / US History Instructor

Student Name _____ Student Number _____

Parent /Guardian Name (Please print) _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Yes! My student has permission to view *Amistad*.

No! I would prefer my student complete the alternative assignment.