

Write your own age rating report

For every film that a BBFC Compliance Officer watches, they decide on the age rating and write a short report explaining the reasons why it should be that rating. Have a go at writing a report yourself by completing this worksheet.

Lets Get Started...

To write your own BBFC report, you have to think just like a Compliance Officer.

When making decisions, a Compliance Officer will identify if a film has any classification issues. These could include examples of any of the below issues:

- Bad language
- Discrimination
- Rude humour
- Scary scenes and horror
- Dangerous behaviour (eg. playing with fireworks or running in the road)
- Romantic scenes and nudity
- Violence

They will also think about the film as a whole and whether there's any other factors that may affect the age rating.

Read the questions below and think about them in relation to the film you're watching before deciding on your age rating and writing your report.

What type of film is it?

There are many types of film that you can watch, including comedy, horror or action. These types or categories are called 'genres'. Think about what type or 'genre' the film you are watching is - how does it compare to other films you've seen of this type or 'genre'?

What type of world does your film take place in?

The location and time period of a film is often called a 'setting'. Think about the world in which your film is set. Does the action happen in a fantasy world that features lots of magical characters or does it take place in a more realistic world that looks familiar to us? Films that are less realistic will often get a lower age rating because they distance us from what we're watching on screen, including the scary bits!

What are the main characters like?

Are the main characters goodies or baddies? Do they behave in a positive way and show kindness to other characters? These are important things to consider if you're thinking of rating your film U or PG.

Who is the film aimed at?

We call the main viewers of a film an 'audience'. Think about whether the film is aimed at very young children or older people - who is the film's main 'audience'? Remember that our U and PG ratings are the lowest, so films aimed at younger people are more likely to have these ratings.

How does the film make you feel?

We always consider the overall feel of a film when deciding on the age rating. If a film is likely to scare people or make people, especially young children, feel sad or anxious then we may rate it higher. If a film has a happy and positive ending and is unlikely to scare very young kids then it's more likely to get a lower rating.

What is the film about? Can you learn anything from the film?

Often films can teach us about new things. If a film can be used for learning and education then we may rate it lower so that more people can view it.

Other things to think about:

- Would you be happy for a younger friend or sibling to watch this film?
- Does the film include any behaviour that you wouldn't want younger children to copy?

Time to write your own report

Film Name: _____

Director: _____

Story summary:

Who do you think the main audience of the film is?

What do you think the age rating should be? (Circle your answer)



Why do you think the film should be this age rating?



Do you think you could change anything about the film to get a different age rating (eg. make it lower or higher?)
