**Movies as Storytellers**

Movies are truly modern-day storytelling instruments. They have the power to reach massive audiences, which is why they should, and do, matter so much to society. Whether they are stories of afar or just everyday existence, good movies are a way for people, particularly youth, to understand and relate to the world in constructive ways.

Countless films generate buzz and top dollars at the box office due to dashing special effects, comic relief or sensational action sequences. However, the movies that have a lasting impact are often those that also make us think in a new way or expose us to a meaningful story, more so than merely entertain.

**Movie Memories Exercise**

Can you recall movies that you watched during your childhood or adolescence that touched your life in a meaningful way? You may have memories of seeing the movie for the first time, memories from the actual day or remember certain lines that have stuck with you over the years.

What movie either exposed you to a new way of thinking or had plots and/or characters that you learned from?

**Ask yourself the following questions:**

1. Why did that movie have an impact on my life?
2. Did I relate specifically to any of the characters in the movie? How so?
3. Did I have the opportunity to converse with family members, teachers or friends about the movie?

 -If so, what did these conversations provide for me?

4. Was the movie based on a book? What was the title?

5. If I were to see this movie again as an adult, would it have the same effect? Explain

6. What movie have I always wanted to watch but haven’t?

 -Why do I want to?

 -Why haven’t I?

These questions generate thinking and self-reflection, demonstrating the importance of delving below the surface of movies for important lessons. From recalling this type of information, you’ll probably be surprised at how much these movies impacted you. Hopefully this demonstrates to you the influence movies can have on young people, and the importance of having those movies leave a positive lasting impression.