

# Native Theme Analysis Sheet

**Film:** \_\_\_\_\_

As you view the film, place a  in the box where the issue appears to apply.

- White actors playing Indian roles (prominent roles not Natives)
- Indians portrayed as “Noble Savages” (uncorrupted, innocent, guardian of nature)
- Indians portrayed as:
  - \_\_stupid, ignorant, uncouth, buffoons
  - \_\_strange
  - \_\_insensitive
  - \_\_quaint, “old-fashioned”
  - \_\_savage renegade (killer of innocents)
  - \_\_a merciless scalper
  - \_\_vicious attacks against whites
  - \_\_not really human
  - \_\_comic relief as mindless drunks
  - \_\_alcohol dependent
- Indians portrayed as “the problem.”
- Indians used as a device to advance the plot providing reactions against “progress” and the advancements of whites
- Indians used to create tension as a dramatic backdrop
- Storylines written so that Indians lose
- Told from a non-Indian viewpoint
- “Might makes right” implied or stated
- The “action” is the primary emphasis (as opposed to content or explanation)
- Indian religion (or no religion) is depicted as simple, backward, uncivilized
- Depicts false practices or distorts rituals, ceremonies, tribal implements
- Derogatory comments about Native people, their cultures, or practices
- Uses the “white messiah” complex as a theme (A non-Indian savior of the people)
- Used the “captured” white person as a theme (detrimental effects)
- Indian women portrayed negatively, as someone who is even less than Indian men (no power, slave, no authority, servant-like)



We will make additions in our discussion.