**The Phone Call**

*SUMMARY: Heather volunteers as a crisis center hot-line operator. She receives a telephone call from a tearful Stan, who is reluctant to divulge the nature of his problem. All she can initially get out of him is that he is despondent and remorseful about an event that happened two years ago, which is now making it difficult for him to continue. The call takes on some urgency for her when she learns that he has taken some prescription anti-depressants. While she tries to convince him to let her call an ambulance for him, all he really seems to want is someone - her - to figuratively hold his hand while he dies. Without any other support staff around, Heather has to use whatever clues she can glean from their conversation to provide Stan the help she wants to get to him before he dies.*

WRITTEN RESPONSE

This piece won the Oscar in 2015 for Best Short Film. In a written response written in MLA format, please answer the following questions:

* What did you think of the film? Why do you think it won an Oscar?
* Why do you think Stan called the crisis line if he had already decided he wanted to die?
* How do you think Heather handled the call? What would you do if you were in her shoes?
* After learning that she didn’t make it in time, how do you think Heather feels?
* Would you recommend this film to a friend? Why or why not?

RESPONSE RUBRIC-50 POINTS

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 10 | 8 | 6 | 4 |
| MLA FORMAT | Essay is double spaced, paragraphs are indented, font is Times New Roman 10 or 12 pt. Paper includes a SLUG | 1-2 errors | 3-4 errors | More than 4 errors |
| PUNCTUATION AND GRAMMAR | Essay uses proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation. | 1-2 errors | 3-4 errors | More than 4 errors |
| CHARACTER  MOTIVATION | Author clearly establishes a theory why Stan called using evidence or inferences | Author mostly establishes a theory why Stan called using evidence or inferences | Author mentions a reason why Stan called but doesn’t explain why he called | Author mentions Stan but not why he called the hotline |
| CHARACTER RESPONSE | Author clearly critiques Heather’s response an explains how he/she would handle the call | Author mostly critiques Heather’s response an explains how he/she would handle the call | Author mentions Heather’s response but doesn’t fully explain how he/she would handle the call | One or more major elements are missing |
| CHARACTER REFLECTION | Author clearly describes the conclusion of the film from Heather’s point-of-view. | Author mostly describes the conclusion of the film from Heather’s point-of-view. | Author tells what happened at the end but doesn’t dive into Heather’s feelings thoroughly | Heather’s feelings and reaction to the end are not explained at all |
| REVIEW | Author clearly defines opinion of movie and supports claim with specific details | Author mostly defines opinion of movie and supports claim with specific details | Author gives an opinion of movie but doesn’t clearly support claim with details | Author doesn’t include reasons for opinion |