

IB Film HL

Independent

Study

“Understanding Flashbacks”

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Rationale

Flashbacks are important in film. But what do they actually mean? How is their use? And is their purpose always the same? Is there a film where flashbacks are used to confuse rather than enlighten? In this documentary, I will take a look at how different flashbacks are made by analyzing four key films that include nonlinear narrative and the *fabula/syuzhet* theory, in order to show how to understand flashbacks. I will show how flashbacks have changed from early films like *Rashomon* and *Citizen Kane* to more contemporary ones like *American History X* and *Memento*.

Word count: 95

Films	Director	Country	Year
<i>Citizen Kane</i>	Orson Welles	USA	1941
<i>Rashomon</i>	Akira Kurosawa	Japan	1950
<i>American History X</i>	Tony Kaye	USA	1998
<i>Memento</i>	Christopher Nolan	USA	2000