End Stage 5 English student work sample – Grade C

**BLONDES FIGHT BACK!**

**Director** Robert Luketic  
**Writer** Karen McCullah Lutz, Kirsten Smith, based on the book by Amanda Brown  

**Running time** 96 minutes.

Harvard so that she can follow her boyfriend Warner Huntington III (played by Matt Davis – what a hunk!)

Still shot of Reese and Matt – romantic scene from movie.

It is also fair to say that there is a bit of unreality about her success in the entrance exam. It could be shambles, but hey, this film doesn't pretend to be more that it is. I have to confess that there is something cool and refreshing about Elle (Reese) mustering the guts to take on the challenges of such a different environment. Yes, it is all a bit far-fetched and unreal, but why not? After all, you don’t always have to have stereotype lawyers, and that is where Elle is at her best.

Still shot – courtroom scene

“Legally Blonde” could easily be ignored or trashed as a simply story of a superficial and fashion conscious stupid blonde who ends up in one of the most elite law schools in the United States... This would be a mistake. It is true that Reese Witherspoon stars as the fairly (at least superficially) dumb character who heads off for
Rania

Uses a range of language devices including hyperbole to engage the reader.

She has a funky spirit which allows the viewer to accept that anyone can overcome her fears. She may not be the standard law student but don’t be fooled into thinking that her fashion sense means she is stupid. It looks like we’re reminded that there are many ways to skin a cat and Elle uses her own special talents to succeed in a place which is as remote from her previous life as can be. This contrast of styles is perfect for the media of film which captures the physical and daunting atmosphere of this high-powered campus and sits this side by side with “fish out of water” Elle.

Of course, don’t expect endless entertainment. Sure, all the usual suspects are the object of the film’s humour, daggy lawyers in particular. But I must confess that the film could have done with more jokes and more substance. It tries to give us a little of everything, triumph over adversity, romantic comedy and court room drama but in doing so it attempts too much. At this point, there is a certain “not that again” feeling given the predictability of its storyline.

So why bother to go see it at all? That’s obvious isn’t? The flick’s supreme pleasure is, in a word, Reese. She holds it all together and effectively proves that she is no mere blonde.

Her talent shines through even more bearing in mind the fairly ordinary storyline. It’s not easy to succeed in a comedy role, but she overcomes the film’s glaring weaknesses to pull off a “feel good” role which earns my respect... no mean feat! And I’m not even blonde...

RATING
Hi Five, Tops, Okay, So-So, Bummer

Shows a clear understanding of different sections of a review and how writers experiment with text structures.
USER COMMENT

(To add to other user comments on the website)

It is over-stretching to say that film “makes the heart weak and the eyes water”. It is not really a “heart strings” movie as the viewer remains acutely aware of the comic tone.

To describe it as a “more intelligent descendent of the high school comedy” is also to overstate. The message is surely as obvious as the script or the acting: looks are deceptive and blonde doesn't always mean equal to stupid. In fact, the idea is not to take the movie seriously at all because if you analyse it, it will only disappoint. It is also full of dumb blonde jokes and is both sexist and deliberately silly.

I also disagree with comments that the performance “almost makes you forgive the script writers”. It is true that Reese is terrific in the lead role but the written material is far from meaningful. Indeed, the music soundtrack doesn't assist. It borders upon the usual “chick flick” quality of films which have been churned out by Hollywood over the past few years. To that extent, it is only likely to appeal to a very narrow demographic, i.e. teenagers.

It is true that if one is simply looking for a “rose tinted feel good comedy” then this film satisfies the bill. However, one can't help being consciously aware of the fact that the film has such limited aspirations, i.e. it is bothersome that it does not even attempt to push the boundaries a little. For example, having taken on some feminist themes, Elle settles back into a predictable relationship with an intelligent male law student (Luke Wilson).

The message of the movie is to raise the perception of society and how Elle finds inner strength. It is more than just a comedy.

Grade Commentary

Rania has provided a consistent piece of writing. The task is sustained but appears to be a 'copy and paste' of ideas, images, phrases and sentences from other reviews. Selecting, identifying and explaining are obvious but imaginative, personal engagement is not demonstrated. Rania has not effectively demonstrated all three outcomes for the task.

Rania’s response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at grade C standard at the end of Stage 5.