

## Guidance on how to answer the following question:

How does John Hughes use the elements of film form to establish the main characters in the opening sequence of *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*

### Elements of film form

Cinematography  
Editing  
Sound  
Mise-en-scene

### Suggested structure for your response

Brief introduction which addresses the question  
Mise-en-scene  
Cinematography  
Editing  
Conclusion summarising key points in relation to the question

### Key Words

Represented  
Representation  
Binary Opposition  
Pan  
Low angle  
Zoom  
Diegetic  
Non-diegetic



### Suggested Sentence Starters

The director uses a number of devices to establish the main characters in the opening sequence...

The use of a low angle shot helps to suggest to the audience that...



The dialogue in this sequence tells the audience a lot about the central characters. An example of this is...



Ferris winks at his sister. This suggests that he has a mischevious nature and makes the audience feel...



When Ferris is talking, the camera follows Ferris around the house The effect of this is...

### How to write analytically

What can you see/hear?

What does this suggest about the character (s)

How does this make the audience feel?

How does the presentation of the character represent young people in general?

### Example of analysis

In the opening sequence we are introduced to Jeannie This introduction is staggered. with a CU of the foot tapping, then CU of hands on hips before the reveal of the face. it is the edits here (It is not a slow pan/male gaze shot) that show she is introduced as the aggressor or antagonist, she is not sexualised like Sloane.

. This makes the audience feel sympathy for Ferris and immediately encourages us to connect with him against Jeannie.. This representation of an older sister as annoying and trying to spoil the younger brothers fun is stereotypical of the genre

**Extension:**

How does this opening sequence help to establish some of the key themes of the film?