

You should include a title which, at minimum, is the assignment name. But, try to go for something more engaging.

JJ Abrams' 2009 movie, *Star Trek*, is exciting to watch with lots of action and a great story. The characters in the story are very realistic and their experiences teach us an important lesson. By studying their experiences and consequences of their actions, it is clearly demonstrated that it is important to learn from one's life experiences if one wants to be successful.

The main character, James T Kirk, is first introduced to the audience in his childhood. He has stolen his mother's boyfriend's car and is running from the police. He is around nine 9 or ten 10 years of age in this scene. The audience quickly sees that Kirk is a hot-headed young man who challenges authority. Once he is a cadet with Starfleet, he continues his hot-headed ways. He cheats on an exam, challenges the Acting Captain, and gets himself "marooned...on Delta Vega" for mutiny. In the scenes where Kirk is in conflict with others, the use of close-ups is effective in showing his lack of respect for authority: eye-rolling, smirking, and mumbling typically lead to the physical or verbal conflicts that follow. Like many young, fatherless males, Kirk is unsure of who he is and where he belongs. The Enterprise's journey to save Captain Pike from the Romulans provides him the opportunity to find himself and success. Your summary of Kirk's character prior to transformation is succinct. Well done.

Kirk's life's motto is "I don't believe in no-win situations," and this is made very clear in the opening scenes of the film. The storyline is fast-paced, and it's not long before Kirk is marooned on Delta Vega where he meets Spock who exists 129 years in the future. Spock Prime is surprised to learn that his younger self is the reason Kirk is stranded on the desolate arctic planet and helps him to return to the Enterprise. It is during this time that Kirk begins to transform: his realization that he and Spock are actually best friends in the future, and that he becomes Captain of the Enterprise prompt him to consider Spock's side of things and how they can work together to bring Captain Pike home. Kirk also learns that in Spock Prime's time realm his father is alive and that "[Kirk] often spoke of him as being [his] inspiration for joining Starfleet. He proudly lived to see [Kirk] become captain of the Enterprise" and this knowledge is the biggest trigger to Kirk's transformation. You have pinpointed the cause of Kirk's transformation in this paragraph and detailed the events leading up to it very nicely.

However, once back on the Enterprise, Kirk's behaviour doesn't leave the audience convinced that he has actually learned anything. He challenges Spock's motives for turning back and berates him for not loving his mother, "What is it like not to feel anger... or heartbreak... or the need to stop at nothing to avenge the death of the woman who gave birth to you?" His jibes at Spock's cultural background invoke a not-before-seen rage in Spock and he begins to physically assault Kirk in white-hot anger. This physical assault results in Spock removing himself as Acting Captain, putting Kirk in the Captain's seat, and the crew embarks on chasing the Romulan ship and the captive Captain Pike. It is in this scene that viewers know a transformation has begun, as Kirk is "accepting [his] fear, and maintaining] control of [himself]" as the Enterprise enters warp speed in pursuit of likely death. You have some strong, precise word choices in this paragraph: they're highlighted in green. Your exploration of Kirk's behaviour during his transformation is thoughtful: You focus

Comment [1]: Remember, you are writing an essay: All paragraphs should be indented and line breaks between paragraphs removed.

Comment [2]: Titles of longer texts, such as films and novels, are italicized.

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Comment [3]: "lots" and "great" are not very specific word choices. You and I likely have very different opinions on what qualifies as "lots" and "great". What could you use instead that would be more specific and say exactly what you mean?

Comment [4]: Remember, because this is a critical essay, your writing needs to be more formal: Avoid contractions.

Comment [5]: Digits 1-10 are spelled out.

Comment [6]: This is not a strong word choice. "Determines," "realizes," "discovers" are some stronger examples.

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Comment [7]: Be careful of broad, sweeping statements. Don't "clump" a group of people together based on assumptions!

Comment [8]: Strong word choices!

Comment [9]: Your quotation is seamlessly incorporated. Excellent job!

Using the [] to indicate that you changed the original quotation is exactly right.

on the idea that maybe he hasn't changed after all as he follows his old behaviours but through your discussion it is clear that there is a method to his actions.

Kirk's experiences allow him to change for the **better**, and he achieves success, both personally and professionally. He is no longer selfish or a hot-head. He **learns** ~~has learned~~ to consider others' opinions in relation to the mission and because of his actions in saving Captain Pike and destroying the Romulan ship, his cadet status is upgraded to Captain of the Enterprise. The audience can **determine** that Kirk's experiences with other officers and cadets, and his experiences with Spock Prime specifically, have given him a new view on things. The fact that his father is alive in a time-realm somewhere, and Kirk grew up with a father-figure to guide him, gives Kirk a sense of peace and stability and allows him to become the officer and the man he needs to be in this time-space continuum. Success doesn't happen overnight. It takes learning from one's own past, present, and future to promote change in one's self. Working in specific evidence (quotations or cinematic effects) would make this paragraph even stronger.

Comment [10]: Stick to the present tense even though events happened in the past.

In conclusion, Abrams' film shows that success comes from learning from one's experiences and often these experiences change a person for the **better**. James T Kirk illustrates how changing one's beliefs in one's self and those around him can lead to success. Everyone wants to be the best version of themselves, and being open to experiences can lead to change and success.

Works Cited

"Star Trek (2009)." *IMDb*, IMDb.com, www.imdb.com/title/tt0796366/quotes. 2 Nov 2017.

Thank you. As your essay progressed it became stronger in word choices. I've highlighted generic words in yellow, stronger ones in green. In your future writing, I want you to focus on using specific words and active verbs.

Your essay on Kirk's transformation was focused and you provided clear supporting evidence for most of your ideas.