



# Film Review

Student's Name:

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Course:

Date:



# Film Review

The movie I have seen is called Walkout. Its narrative is based upon the true story of the protest that started within the school walls and continued on the streets of the small city. At the beginning of the film, the viewer is faced with the realities of the high school where racism, sexism, ageism, and other problematic issues have long become a routine. Hispanics and students of other national minorities are treated unequally on everyday basis. Their bathrooms are closed during the breaks; they are not allowed to speak Spanish at school ('everything that is not spoken in English is not worth being spoken at all' – the warning on the one of school walls). They are obliged to perform janitorial work as a kind of punishment. Finally, school administration discourages them to enter colleges focusing on more talented students who do not belong to national minorities.

After coming through all of these, Paula Crisostomo, a high school student, together with other oppressed students-activists from East Los Angeles decides to protest. Despite objections of Paula's father, they offer to conduct a survey in school in order to determine the ways in which the treatment of students might be improved. As school authorities object to take into considerations the suggestions, Paula offers to come to the streets in order to protest. The school board threatens to expel her if she does not stop the movement. After a series of protests, the school agrees to consider the demands of protesters. However, Paula's father throws her out of house due to her participation in the rebellion.

Despite everything, students still go out on the streets in order to protect their right to equality. However, what is interesting, the police start to beat and arrest them. Actually, it is understandable and widely spread. We can rarely find someone who holds a privileged position in society and is willing to abandon it for the sake of those who have been oppressed for years. Of

course, they would stay till the end to protect the tiniest elements of their supremacy using police force, mass media, and other resources. By the way, the movie shows that media remains silent in such kind of situation, and nothing about the arrests or beating the students is presented on the TV. Instead, mass media pictures protesters as peace-breakers and ties them with Communist ideology. A dirty propaganda going on the TV screens is an innovative tool for manipulation of public opinion. That is understandable too. Mass media is governed and censored by those who hold the power; thus, it is designed to please their interests.

Considering the role of the community in the protest shown in the film, I can only suggest that just as those privileged people, they are not ready for changes. Moreover, they are not ready to fight for them. It is safer and comfortable to remain silent regarding the issues you are concerned with. As the time flows, you get used to the state of things, and you are no longer willing to change the smallest thing. Paula's father is an excellent example of it. He strives to calm his daughter from the very beginning of the unrests asserting that nothing will eventually be changed. At the same time, there are families who turn to support their children in their fight for better future which, of course, leaves room for hope. Considering the movie, I should also note that there are betrayers in every movement who obstruct it from the inside. In this movie, it was Robert who was employed as undercover LAPD officer; it was him who facilitated the arrests of twelve rebels and Paula's friend Sal. All of them faced the accusation of conspiracy to disrupt the school. However, despite all of it, Paula managed to gather people in front of the jail and force police to release the protesters.

In general, I consider that this movie is of great importance for each of us. I like it because of the truth and reality it brings. The producer shows the way people fight for their interests. Undoubtedly, a lot could be learned from that. For example, I really appreciate the words of the teacher who encourages

students to study more since their history will still not be presented on the pages of periodicals since there would be no educated man to write them if they follow the way of their ancestors and give up on studies. Needless to say, the movie consists of many scenes depicting the real life which I dislike. They are related to racism issues, oppression, violence, inequality, etc. The film indeed could be used as a social pattern to follow in order to overcome the abovementioned negative social phenomenon.