**Jaws Essay**

****I am going to take a much closer look and review the history of the horror genre before analysing Jaws. We will start with the silent era and look through the ins and outs of the silent movies. The silent era was completely based on monsters such as, Frankenstein (1910), Dracula (1912) and many more, still talked about today. Makeup was very important in the era and without it the films would not be as scary and gruesome. Early conventions, the reveal and the use of isolation were used to create tension. These were very worrying, like if they were in a house and couldn’t get out, or if you were stuck on an island with nowhere to go. However, a key component was missing. There was no music and without that is like having a roast dinner without the potatoes. Through the talkies and the 1930 and 40s little changed, there were still reveals and monsters but little new. Everything did change however when it got to the sci-fi, ‘B-movies’ and ‘hammer horror’ in the (1950’s). Movies like The Fly (1958), The Blob (1958) and the creature from the black lagoon (1954). Were released. This was known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Phase.

In the 1960’s films included witchcraft, zombies, and wizardry. The type of horror moved on very quickly the conventions changed. Now we have the male hero in the films and more suspense caused by such movie techniques as ‘the devils possession’! As we move through the century horror films turned more violent, sadistic and brutal. In the 4th era horror finally became horrific, terrifying and more realistic. Movies start to follow a certain pattern and became formulaic. Films also started to relate to news stories and relied less on horror tales . Other horrors focused on suspense , ‘the sixth sense’ and ‘the house of wax’ good examples. Finally, the most recent introduction in torture in films such as ‘saw 1 ‘saw 2 and s.

Jaws has always been debated whether it is a horror or a thriller? I hope that my analysis will lead you to side on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_side. Right from the start, the use of ‘Jaws’ text font give the film an edge. The film opens with the shark’s point of view but the audience doesn’t know that it is a shark, along with the music this is really unsettling. From the unknown we move straight to feeling safe, warm and most of all protected by the camp fire scene. The film starts with a tranquil scene with young people enjoying themselves on the beach. This uses a modern convention of using teenagers at the start of the film as potential victims. Spielberg introduces us to two characters. The close ups of the two kids show there is a connection between the two teenagers. The two teenagers leave the safety of the group and decide to go into the water. Spielberg is isolating the two kids leaving the audience cautious. Christy is shown to be a beautiful and elegant swimmer. The scene is set with the moon shimmering on the sea and a slightly eerie, a buoy is seen floating in the background, the a bell ringing out. The audience know to be worried when we return to the shark’s point of view looking up at the girl. The power of music, representing the shark in its movements, is very important and gives the audience an idea of what is about to happen. It also starts quietly and slowly and as the attack occurs gets louder and quicker it almost becomes frenzied. The close ups in the attacks really make the audience feel closer and much more scared. The shark has yet to be seen so this adds a mystery to the story. The first attack is so secret no-one knows that attack happened until the police report punches SHARK ATTACK on the typewriter.

In the second scene the film centres on the ‘the right thing to do’ question? Brody is not sure of the decision of the Mayor and the film takes us to another day on the beach. We see lots of different people enjoying themselves and we feel\_\_\_\_\_\_. The audience, watching through the eyes of Chief Brody, are left feeling\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Spielberg uses short shots to build up the tension and a series of red herring, he uses an overweight lady, a dog, young couple and a boy with his Lilo as possible victims. Brody is shown as on edge and always panicking when anything related to the water happens. The camera again moves to the shark’s P.O.V and the music starts again. Spielberg uses the colour ‘yellow’ to depict characters in the movie e.g, yellow t-shirt, yellow hat, yellow lilo. This attracts the audience attention.

Was ‘Jaws’ a true Horror film? I am going to try and answer this question. I think Jaws was not a true Horror film, it did not have as much blood and gory bits as most Horror films. Jaws relied on the scare tactic and the unknown element. It was a strong physiological film which left people feeling very scared about entering the seas and oceans. The film did not give any thought about the tourist industry or the effect sharks would be portrayed to the world.