***Hotel Rwanda* and The Hero’s Journey**

As you view the film, consider Paul Rusesabagina as a hero. How does he develop over the course of his experience? Identify the stages of his Hero’s Journey as he reaches them, and explain how events/experiences/encounters fit specific stages of the journey.

**Introduction in the Ordinary World (What is Paul’s life and attitude before the crisis?):**

**Call to Action (What is the first incident that calls Paul’s attention to a need for action?):**

**Refusal of the Call (How and why does Paul refuse to act early on?):**

**Crossing the First Threshold (When does Paul first begin to take action or enter a “new world”?):**

**“Supernatural” Aid (Who or what is Paul’s guide?):**

**Belly of the Whale (What might be classified as a very dark moment, in which Paul must realize that he is now completely separated from the life he’s had?):**

**Road of Trials (What challenges/trials/triumphs does Paul encounter along his journey?):**

**Meeting with the Goddess OR Atonement with the Father (At what point does Paul encounter a powerful figure who makes him face a painful or difficult truth?):**

**Apotheosis (At what point has Paul fully transformed and how?):**

**Refusal of the Return (When does Paul refuse an opportunity to leave his situation and return to his life?):**

**Ultimate Boon (What is Paul’s ultimate achievement?):**

**Rescue from Without/Magic Flight (What assistance does Paul require to get out?):**

**Master of Two Worlds/Freedom to Live (At what point is Paul free?):**

***Hotel Rwanda* Guided Viewing**

Respond to the following questions as you view the film.

1. How does the film begin? How does this particular technique establish the setting?
2. What kind of person does Paul initially appear to be?
3. Explain the conversation at the hotel bar. Does this strike you as odd or problematic? What might it foreshadow?
4. What event seems to precipitate the genocide? How is this political, historical context handled by the film?
5. What does the Hutu soldier order Paul to do? Do you find this scene credible?
6. Why does the UN colonel refuse to take action or to take the Tutsi refugees?
7. What are Paul’s initial expectations for a Western response to Rwanda’s crisis?
8. Why does the UN withdraw its forces and the non-Rwandan inhabitants?
9. How is Paul able to prevent the Hutu soldier from taking over the hotel?
10. What does Paul advise the refugees at the hotel to do?
11. What kind of relationship does Paul have with General Bizimungu? What does this suggest?
12. Who is George Rutaganda? How does he respond to Paul’s questions about the Hutus’ plans?
13. On the drive back from his meeting with George, what does Paul encounter? How is this filmed? What scene(s) directly follow this one? Why?
14. What does the RTLM say about those who help “cockroaches”?
15. What happens to the convoy of Rwandas who have visas to leave? What internal conflict do we witness here?
16. How is Paul able to bribe General Bizimungu into helping him?
17. Using at least two scenes as examples, comment of specific cinematographic techniques used to capture the effects of the genocide (violence, fear, horror, despair, etc.).
18. Explain at least three parallels between the Rwandan genocide and the Holocaust.
19. Explain at least three parallels between Paul Rusesabagina and Oskar Schindler.