

Gatewood's Classroom
Citizen Kane Study Guide

Directions: Work through the various sections as you watch the film or on your own time. The guide builds upon the ideas discussed in the lecture. This assignment will be due the day after the film ends. Short answer responses are acceptable for sections one and two, but be complete in your response.

I. Characters/Settings/Terms—Provide descriptions for these characters, settings, and terms. Who or what are they? How do they relate to the central character of the film? What is their relevance to the film? (26 points)

Walter P. Thatcher

Thompson

Mr. Bernstein

Jed Leland

Susan Alexander

Emily Monroe-Norton

Raymond

Xanadu

Municipal Opera House

El Rancho

New York Inquirer

Declaration of Principles

Rosebud

II. Camera Techniques—Find examples of each technique in the film. Define each technique. Explain the effect of the technique; that is, what does the director, Orson Welles, try to accomplish, try to convey or say, by using each technique? It is a two part question. (14 points)

Deep Focus

Dissolve

Wipe

Low Angle Shot

High Angle Shot

Chiaroscuro Lighting

Low Key Lighting

III. Character Analysis—Analyze the character of Charles Foster Kane. How would you describe his personality and motivations? How and what do we learn about this character; that is, what various narrative forms does Welles use to reveal information about Kane? Are there any camera techniques that suggest something about his character? How do your perceptions of Kane evolve or change throughout the story? Does Kane fit the tragic hero model? How do you interpret the symbolism of Rosebud? (10 points)

IV. Short Essay—Analyze the film and relate it to ideas that we have discussed in other literary works. Connect the story of Kane, or of another character in *Citizen Kane*, to a character from a piece of literature that we have studied this year. You could examine the issues of greed and materialism, the questions of power and self-destruction, the problems of love and control. Use examples to support your thesis. (10 points)