HISTORICAL RESEARCH EXERCISE
Instructor: Daniel Humphrey

1. Brief Description of in-class writing exercise:
Working with primary source materials - old magazines, interviews with the director, contemporaneous books - students write a paragraph about a film in terms of the historical era of its release.

Ex: Instructor provides magazines from the year in which the film was released. Students sift through magazines to look for contemporaneous cultural productions and historical events that seem relevant to the film.

2. Context for the exercise:
Discussions of historical research for an historical research paper

3. Goal(s) of the exercise:
- Get students to put objects of research into historical perspective
- Get students familiar with primary source materials

4. Common results of the exercise:
Very good responses.

5. Student responses to the exercise:
Very good responses. Most students find something new to say about a film by looking at contemporaneous material.