

**Roger Ebert:
“The Essential
Man”**

Surveying the Text

1. What do you know about film critic Roger Ebert? If you don't know anything, conduct a quick search on your phone or chromebook. Record your findings in your WNB.
2. Looking at the text, what kind of writing (genre) do you think this is?
3. Do you notice anything interesting about the way this text looks?

Skim the Text and Make Predictions

- Skim the headings and paragraphs briefly.
 - What topics related to the issue of how society values life do you think Ebert may have discussed in this interview?
 - Do you think Ebert's claim about the value of life will agree with Hamlet's or not? Why?

Vocabulary

In a group of 3, split up the following vocab words (5 each). Look up the words (if needed), then write 5 sentences each using each of your 5 vocab words.

Ritual
Radiate
Savor
Cinematic
Feverishly

BONUS: Carotid Artery

Rudimentary
Mandible
Tracheostomy
Monologue
Augment

BONUS: G-tube

Facsimile
Nuanced
Sentimental
Mystics
Intervention

BONUS: IV pole

First/Preliminary Read

1. Read “The Essential Man” by Chris Jones on your own.
 - a. Pay attention to the way Ebert talks about life. Try to determine whether he is generally *pessimistic* or *optimistic*.
2. Draw a line where you feel the **introduction ends**.
 - a. Is it at the end of the first paragraph? First few paragraphs? In the middle of a paragraph? Why?
3. Draw a line where you feel the **conclusion begins**.
 - a. Is it the last paragraph? Last few paragraphs? In the middle of a paragraph? Why?

Second Read

1. Read through the text again with a highlighter (or pen/pencil to underline). Highlight or underline words or phrases in which Ebert describes what it means to be alive.
2. Like you did with *Hamlet*, put a “+” or a “-” next to each highlight/underline to determine if it is positive or negative outlook.
3. Share with a partner and discuss: Did Ebert tend to have a more of a positive view of life (optimistic) or a negative view (pessimistic)?

Third Read

(just kidding!)

Skim through your highlighted/underlined phrases and make a notation (“*” perhaps?) next to any that you think Hamlet would find particularly interesting or compelling.

If you find anything new (as in, not already highlighted/underlined) that Hamlet would like, note it as well.

Discuss with a neighbor - why would Hamlet find these words or phrases intriguing?