MOVIE REVIEW OF
“MARVEL’S THE AVENGERS”

Overview
The plot of the movie “Marvel’s The Avengers” revolves around the struggle for a pulsating cube of energy known as a Tesseract, which has the powers to open a gateway into the universe. Loki, the villain in this movie enlists help from an alien civilization to conquer Earth, and uses the Tesseract for this purpose. Nick Fury, the director of Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement, and Logistics Division (S.H.I.E.L.D) is pitted with the task of bringing together a team of superheroes (The Avengers) to counter the threat of invasion, and subsequent conquering of Earth by Loki and the alien army. (Ebert 7)

Review Outline
The movie is about a group of superheroes who exact retribution for an attack against planet Earth. It is an educative movie which uses the element of action entertainment to teach life’s lessons without viewers getting bored. The central theme is that of teamwork and the director uses various instances where other themes are introduced to prove the overall value of teamwork. These include: conflict, human flaws and ignorance, science, self sacrifice, courage, greed, revenge and justice. The director accurately presents the work in a clear and understandable way to prove his point on the value of teamwork through the various scenes in the movie.

Thesis statement
Teamwork is a critical element in undertaking any challenge as various skills and competences are brought together for a common cause. This movie
expresses this notion by pitting superheroes against a common villain and sometimes one superhero against another in the development of the plot to try and educate the viewers on the overall value of teamwork while at the same time keeping the viewers entertained. The review analyses the various instances where other themes are brought up and how they well they are presented to build on the core value of teamwork.

**Theme of conflict**
Most action movies involve a in a classic battle of good over evil, and in most cases the superhero who is a symbol of good always emerges victorious. A different scenario comprising of several superheroes fighting a common enemy is introduced in this movie. The director, Joss Whedon incorporates several comic book superheroes with different capabilities to bring about the value of teamwork. Whedon uses the character of Iron Man (to display wit), Thor (to portray justice), Incredible Hulk (to portray anger), Captain America (to portray patriotism), Black Widow (to portray courage), and Hawkeye (to portray cruelty). In various instances, the superheroes are placed in circumstances that force them to have conflicting purposes. As a result, they end up fighting against one another, instead of focusing on their goal of fighting evil; this is a witty way of educating viewers that all people have flaws, and unless they overcome them and unite for a common purpose, their overall objectives may be futile. (Puig 5)

**Theme of human flaws and ignorance**
On the subject of human flaws, the director uses Captain America, the character portrayed as being patriotic, to bring about the issue of self absorption instead of sacrifice for the common good. In one instance, the captain thinks he should not be given leadership responsibilities he would have previously shouldered as his duty for the love of his country or hereby in this
case; his planet. Later the captain overcomes his selfishness and leads in the evacuation of civilians with the help of Thor (Kenny 6). Since Iron Man is just a normal human without his suit, and Thor has no powers without his mythical hammer, the director portrays their ignorance in various instances. For instance, Iron Man is involved in trash talks and in a physical squabble where Thor and Iron Man almost completely destroyed an entire forest using their superhero powers in a show of might instead of teaming up to fight the villain. They later put down their differences and fight hand in hand against the invading army (Fine 11). The movie brings out the element of not getting too engrossed on individual prejudices and forgetting the overall goal of using your capabilities for a noble cause.

**Theme of science**

The movie is set in a plot that involves science and shows the good side and the evil side of it. The Tesseract, which can be used for development of weapons of defense against evil forces, also has the capabilities of opening up gateways for invading armies, and hence is the center of the entire struggle. It has brought about teamwork based on greed in the case of the villain Loki and the alien forces and has brought about unity and co-operation on the avengers side, which would rarely have been witnessed had there been no emerging threat. The director also portrays the bad side of advancement in science by using the example of the alien fighter craft. The craft has advanced capabilities and is used to attack planet Earth instead of other purposes such as inter-galactic travel and exploration. This scene shows that sometimes teamwork can be used for evil purposes in this case for the scientists who develop the craft. However, at the end Iron Man’s scientific suit together with his team emerge triumphant in the battle of good over evil to prove the value of teamwork for a noble cause. (Ebert 3)
Theme of faith
In this movie, the fate of the whole world lies upon a few individuals, therefore, portraying a theme of faith. Fury enlists the aid of the avengers with confidence that they will defeat the invaders. When the avengers are brought together, Iron man chooses to associate easily with Hulk who is an ordinary scientist living away in India while trying to avoid getting worked up since when angry he becomes an uncontrollable monster. (Hornaday 9) Iron Man believes that Hulk is an asset, and can be used to fight the invaders if his anger can be channeled in the right direction and this proves worthwhile when they team up to fight the final battle for protection of the planet. The director also uses other characters with less superhero powers such as Black Widow and Hawkeye who fight alongside well established superheroes to show that the superheroes had faith in working with them for the overall good of the planet. Without this faith in each other they would not have teamed up together in the first place.

Theme of self sacrifice and courage
Self sacrifice and courage are portrayed throughout the movie in the case of superheroes putting aside their differences and uniting for the sake of humanity. Hulk abandons tending to patients in India to come and fight for planet Earth although he was reluctant in the beginning. Consequently, Iron Man passes out after directing the missile into the gateway to save the city from destruction. All these instances show individuals who were ready to sacrifice their own lives for the sake of their team and for a good cause.

Theme of greed and justice
Sequels are a favorite for many movie lovers and in this case Loki the villain in this movie is on a revenge mission after being defeated in a previous battle with his brother, Thor over the control of their planet. (Fine 3) This time round he
seeks to control Earth and collaborate with other galactic aliens so that he can rule several kingdoms in the universe. Ultimately he is defeated in a case where justice if served, not only for Earth, but for the entire universe. Although Thor is not from Earth, he fights alongside humans to bring justice. The movie lives up to its title “The Avengers” since the superheroes exact retribution for the act of the villain and aliens invading the planet Earth. This victory could not have been possible if the superheroes had relied upon their individual powers. However, as a team they proved to be an invincible force. This proves the central theme of teamwork as critical when undertaking any challenge.
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