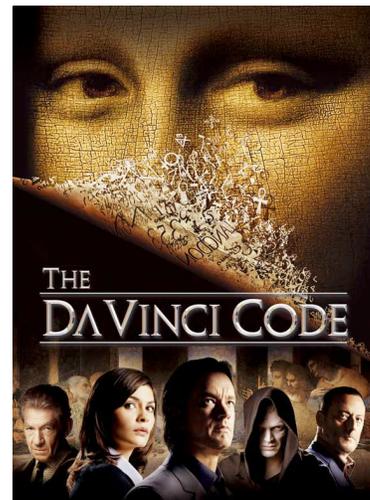


TO: Parents of Students in Dr. Neufeld's History Classes
FROM: Dr. Neufeld
RE: "The DaVinci Code"
DATE: Monday, May 1, 2017



After studying the Renaissance, we have moved on to Chapter 14 which is about the split in Christianity from the Catholic church to the addition of the Protestant church. An important aspect in the change of Christianity is how beliefs in the religion change over time. The film that I would like to show that relates to contemporary changes in the religion that are still being debated today are shown in the 2006 film titled "The DaVinci Code". The film exudes the theme that we are currently studying which is the power of the church. This film also touches briefly upon the work of Renaissance artist Leonardo DaVinci. We have briefly reviewed DaVinci's painting "The Last Supper" which is an important element in the film. Most of this film is actual history about what was found about DaVinci's work and what DaVinci had written. A small portion is fiction. This difference is what we will discuss in class after we have viewed the film. I will also show a documentary from the History Channel that discusses what is true and what is fabricated in this film about DaVinci and the power of the Catholic Church. **Please go on the Internet to "DrNeufeld.com" and click on "C13: The Renaissance" and then "DaVinci Code" to catch several trailers of "The DaVinci Code".**

On the back of this paper is more information on the film. I also listed two web sites you could use to learn more about the film. If you would like more information, or if you would like to see the film yourself, you can e-mail me at doug_neufeld@lawndale.k12.ca.us

Thank You!

Please return this form by Monday, May 8!

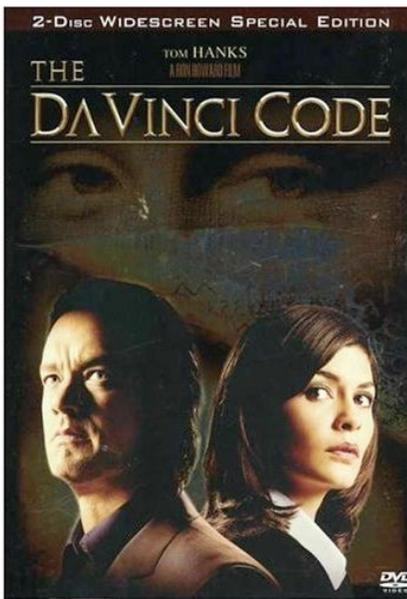
Name of Student

Period

Yes, my child can watch the 2006 film "The DaVinci Code".

No, I prefer that my child not watch the film and complete other classwork instead.

Parent Signature



One review of **The DaVinci Code**:

Just as the movie is intended to make the book come to life, the DVD extras should make the film come to life by pointing the audience into the world of the filmmakers, connecting the dots between print and film, and for the most part they do just that. The extras here range from the typical look behind-the-scenes to more in-depth features on the supporting characters, the locations, and the Mona Lisa herself. "First Day on the Set with Ron Howard" features the director gushing about the opportunity to film in the Louvre and work with Tom Hanks again (the two worked together before on *Splash* and *Apollo 13*). It's a short piece that doesn't reveal much beyond making an attempt to share Howard's excitement (with the "Gee, I really loved working with him/her on this project" that you hear in every such featurette), but viewers might enjoy seeing how the stage was set up in the famous

museum, down to the spike tape on the floor showing actors where to hit their marks. The *Filmmaking Experience*, Parts 1 and 2 further explores the creative and technical aspects of the filmmaking process. A *Conversation with Dan Brown* starts out feeling like a puff-piece (the man who wrote this book got started at age 5 with a story called *The Giraffe, The Pig, and the Pants on Fire*. "It was a thriller," he says.) and unfortunately it doesn't go very deep into much of anything of interest. But on the other hand, this isn't *60 Minutes* here; it's intended to give viewers a better sense of the man behind the franchise, which it does. Much of the footage from this interview is sprinkled throughout some of the other featurettes. Meanwhile, the character behind the franchise, Robert Langdon, is examined in his own featurette, as is Sophie Neveu. The cool thing here is getting under the skin of the actors to see how they approached the characters, knowing that most of the movie-going public already has formed their own ideas about the characters from the book.

The most interesting extras are the featurettes that focus on the history behind the mystery. Or is it the mystery behind the history? Either way, the first one on the Mona Lisa, and the second featurette on the many codes and symbols that are hidden throughout the movie balance out the remainder of the extras nicely by demonstrating the sense of intrigue, mystery, and game-playing adventure that made *The Da Vinci Code* so popular in the first place. --Daniel Vancini

For more information about this film, check out these two web sites:

http://www.amazon.com/Vinci-Code-Widescreen-Two-Disc-Special/dp/B00005JOC9/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=dvd&qid=1211866018&sr=1-1

<http://www.imdb.com/find?s=all&q=davinci+code&x=0&y=0>
has scenes from the movie on the Internet site