**Outline**

TOPIC: - What tactics does director Oren Peli use in his film *Paranormal Activity* to make the film terrifying. How is the concept of paranormal activity incorporated into this?

Introduction:

1. Give background/summary of the film itself
2. Give background on the concept of paranormal activity
3. Give background on Oren Peli’s films- discussing the topics of his other films

Have a small paragraph for synopsis? Or keep history of paranormal activity. You can use evidence in intro paragraphs. Keep topic sentences to your own. Use kernals.

Thesis: Although many dismiss the validity of paranormal activity, Oren Peli is still able to create his blockbuster, *Paranormal Activity* by tapping into a myriad of psychological phenomena to turn even the biggest skeptics into temporary believers.

Body Paragraphs:

**In choosing a topic with scare potential, Peli chooses the idea of paranormal activity due to the uncertainty it induces.**

* + - Close reading on opening scene, establishing the setting-- “Katie and her boyfriend Micah have been living together for three years and out of the blue, they are haunted by an entity while they are sleeping. Katie discloses to Micah that she has been haunted since she was eight year-old. The skeptical Micah buys a camera to videotape the paranormal activity in their home during the night. Katie calls Fredrichs, to help them, but he explains that he is specialist in ghosts. However he feels the presence of a fiend and advises the couple to call a friend of his.
    - Cinemablend review of the movie
  + Much of the footage depicting their daily activities is shot *Blair Witch* style but when the camera comes into the bedroom it’s static on a tripod. Everything from the actors to the cinematography is so natural that when the unnatural aspects pop up, they’re intrinsically terrifying.

1. **The horror movie community generally frowns upon jump scares, as they are more surprising than psychologically stimulating; Peli uses psychological attacks of the subconscious in lieu of jump scares.**
   * + 🡪 Close reading on the final night scene
     + Genius awakening “What horror movies taught me” There’s no difference between “reality” and perception for the subconscious mind. It knows what most of us don’t – there’s no real duality between the two, period. Our perception IS our reality (or, as the old adage states, it defines it for us). For example, if I watch movies for a week where people are being killed senselessly, my subconscious doesn’t know it was just a movie. EVERYTHING in my world is ‘just a movie’ to my subconscious, and at the same time everything is deadly serious.

Freud and Psychoanalysis

“Horror films serve to highlight unconscious fears, desires, and urges within it’s audience. These “hidden” themes are snaked into the film for the audience to soak in subliminal messaging. Part of this messaging is communicated through symbols, which translate certain connotations.”

Interview with Oren Peli about the pros and cons of Paranormal activity. He uses a very low budget to create a blockbuster film. It is the most profitable film ever made due to its low budget and massively high revenue.

1. **Psychological attacks stimulate physical unrest and affect the body’s physical reaction, stimulating hormone and neurotransmitter changes**
   * + - “'Paranormal Activity' and the real world of parapsychology”

Auerbach vividly remembers a family of four who were all experiencing symptoms very similar to those found in those films. "They all felt dizzy in two spots in this house and very often would get headaches for no reason,"

The study found that the body experiences an adrenaline rush when the pulse quickens while watching a scary movie. During these bursts of intense stress they found that the Basal Metabolic Rate increased and ultimately the subjects burned calories.

WebMD, Glenn Sparks: Cantor conducted several surveys and found that nearly 60% of her patience’s claimed that something they had watched before age 14 had caused disturbances in their sleep or waking life.

“Mental Floss” video on brain imaging during horror movies

1. **Although *Paranormal Activity* induces undesirable fear, Peli targets morbid fascination to draw crowds to see the movie.**

Close reading/analysis of final scene when Micah dies

“Why we love Scary Movies” from Webmd

Humans may have an innate need to stay aware of dangers in our environment, especially the kind that could do us bodily harm. Yet another theory suggests that people may seek out violent entertainment as a way of coping with actual fears or violence.

Kaitlin Vogel: “The Psychology Behind Why We Love Scary Movies”

*“*heart rate, blood pressure, and respiration increase after viewing a frightening film”

*“*“High sensation-seekers enjoy morbid curiosity in general and horror movies in particular”

Amanda Barker “Why do we watch horror films?

“James B. Weaver III, PhD, says many young people may be attracted to them merely because adults frown on them (Sine, 2).”

Katie Heaney “The {sychology of a Horror Movie Fan”

Other studies claimed that those who like horror films tend to have three commonly shared traits: sensation-seeking, above-average aggression, and maleness. For the latter two there are important caveats: Aggressive people may seek horror films out

Use Rotten Tomatoes reviews and % to quantify and support assertion on success of the movie.

**CARTHESIS**

**YOU CAN MAKE CONCLUSIONS ON THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT, SO DRAW SIMILAR CONCLUSIONS USING EVIDENCE THERE.**

**YOU DON’T NEED TO GO SO BROAD WITH BROADER CONTEXT, MAINLY IN INTRO AND CONCLUSION**