AFI Top 100 Criteria

Films were judged according to the following criteria.

1. [***Feature length***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feature_length)**:** Narrative format, at least 40 minutes long.
2. [***American film***](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinema_of_the_United_States)**:** [English language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_language), with significant creative and/or financial production elements from the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States). (Certain films, notably [*The Bridge on the River Kwai*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Bridge_on_the_River_Kwai), [*2001: A Space Odyssey*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2001%3A_A_Space_Odyssey_%28film%29) and [*Lawrence of Arabia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lawrence_of_Arabia_%28film%29), were British-made but funded and distributed by American studios. "The Lord of the Rings" was New Zealand-made with American funding)
3. ***Critical recognition*:** Formal commendation in print.
4. ***Major award winner*:** Recognition from competitive events including awards from organizations in the film community and major film festivals.
5. ***Popularity over time***: Including figures for box office adjusted for inflation, television broadcasts and syndication, and home video sales and rentals.
6. ***Historical significance***: A film's mark on the history of the moving image through technical innovation, visionary narrative devices or other groundbreaking achievements.
7. ***Cultural impact*:** A film's mark on American society in matters of style and substance.