Candidate 6 evidence

Shutter Island is a film by Martin Scorsese in which Teddy Daniels, a US Marshall goes to a mental institution in order to find a missing patient. We later find out that Teddy is the missing patient, as he is part of a role play to try and help him come to terms with the terrible crime he did of killing his wife, who was drowned with their three kids.

The film uses lighting and sound to express to us spiritual important features of the film, therefore allowing us to see the truth.
In the opening sequence lighting is used to a great extent in order to enhance our appreciation of the film as we can further understand what is being portrayed. When we see Teddy in the bathroom we see his face in the mirror. In this shot one side of his face is clearer than the other, this reveals a split personality to Teddy. As we have got the impression there is something darker about him.

Also, in the same shot we see Teddy's face in the mirror along with his shadow on the left side. The lighting makes his face clear in the mirror but the shadow on the left gives an image of...
almost a second person being there.

This suggests two personalities of Teddy as we know from the film he is brave. Therefore this contrast of light and dark gives us a hint early on in the film that Teddy is hiding something dark. Therefore making more of an appreciation for the sequence as we begin to understand the split fantasy personality of Teddy Daniels.

In the opening sequence sound is also used when we first see the boat appearing from the fog. There is a low tone played quite dramatically throughout allowing us to understand that the island Teddy
is going to is a date every place, therefore adding to our appreciation of the sequence as it reveals a lot about the film. The low tide sound creates an image and sense of suspense as we don't know what's to come.

In the opening sequence there is a flashback of Teddy and his wife Dolores in their old flat. The contrast between the musky grey colour on the boat to the bright colours of the flashback suggest a difference in the theme of reality vs fantasy. Therefore our appreciation of the opening sequence is therefore increased as we laugh to understand main themes. As the lighting of
The flashback is much brighter, suggesting the fantasy of it, contrasting it with the dark grey on the boat.

In that same flashback sound is important as we can hear a record playing, and the record is quite a prominent object throughout the play, therefore our understanding of the sequence introduces us to new forms in the films. Also, the particular record that is playing has a surprising relation to the film. The record being played was written by a man called Ernesto who was also institutionalized due to the death of his wife and daughter. This therefore makes a link to Teddy as that is rather similar to...
herself.

Back on the boat the use of sound is very successful, as upon approaching the island and getting on the island, we see hear the same low tone easy music that was played before. This part of the sequence creates a great knowledge of the isolation and on the sinister feel of the island thereby adding to our appreciation. As we begin to understand wonder what awaits Teddly on the island.

Once on the island the same low tone sound is played until they reach the gates. This adds suspense to the sequence as we are being
shown the island through in a way that reflects the isolated feel and repress. Therefore allowing us to see the island for what it has been made out to be.

At the gate we are shown a particular difference between Ward A+B compared to Ward C. Through lighting in this sequence we can enhance our appreciation for it as we can see a clear contrast between the two, therefore saying to us that there is something dark in ward C, as ward C is darker to the other two we begin to become intrigued by it as the repress is reflected from it. This shows the effects
way insanity is portrayed in the film, as a dark isolated state, just like we see in 

In conclusion, the Martin Scorsese uses lighting and sound effectively in the opening sequence as it showed the viewer hints to the bigger picture shown throughout the film. We begin to understand through the opening sequence earlier some important themes and the way insanity is portrayed in the film, therefore adding to the significance of the techniques he tries to use.