

## Guidelines to Writing a Theatre Critique

Type your critique out using Times New Roman 12pt font, 1" margins, and double spaced lines. Be sure to include your name, date, and period number on the top of your page.

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A critique is an evaluation of a performance. It should contain at least five paragraphs.

1. Paragraph 1 - The Basics
  - a. Who (the playwright, directors, actors)
  - b. What (the title of the play)
  - c. Where (the name of the school and theater)
  - d. When (the date you saw the show)
  - e. Why (in a few sentences state the basic theme of the show)
2. Paragraph 2 - The Plot (Briefly summarize the plot of the show)
  - a. How well did the story work?
  - b. Was it interesting or entertaining?
  - c. Did you like the actual script?
3. Paragraph 3 - The Acting (reactions to the performers)
  - a. Use their real names and character names
  - b. Were they believable?
  - c. How was their volume and articulation?
  - d. Did their gestures and body movement stay true to the character?
4. Paragraph 4 - The Design
  - a. Set: Did it establish a mood and correct time period?
  - b. Lights: Did they convey appropriate mood, emphasis, and brightness?
  - c. Costumes/Make-Up: Were they true to the period of the show and to the characters?
  - d. Sound: How did the sound effects and music contribute to the show's mood?
  - e. If this performance is a musical, what was your opinion of the orchestra's performance, sound design, or sound mixing?
5. Paragraph 5 - The Reaction (What is the play's effect on the audience?)
  - a. Was the audience attentive?
  - b. Was the audience interested?
  - c. What was your opinion of the show as a whole?

Remember to do the following:

- Back up your opinions with evidence
- Be objective, fair, sincere, and honest
- Evaluate the entire production
- Be constructive. Include what went well and what needed improvement.
- Enjoy the show. Don't go to be overly critical
- Do not rewrite the questions from the guideline. **USE YOUR OWN WORDS.**

## Take this page with you to take notes at intermission and after the show

Be sure to take a program home with you so you can use it as a reference.

Questions to ask yourself during the performance (take notes at intermission and after the show):

- Does the show look like it's from the era it should be?
- Does the overall look of the show blend well with the story?
- Can I hear the actors?
- Can I understand the actors?
- Are the actors believable?
- Do I like the storyline? Why?
- Is the audience engaged?
- Write down three impressions you during the show