



Theatre Critiques

A critique is an evaluation of a performance of a play or musical.

The critique should contain five paragraphs.

Use MLA Format for your heading and margins.

Two critiques are required per semester

Short Paragraph 1 - The Basics

Introduce the name of the play, author, place of performance, date of performance, and director.

In a few sentences talk about the basic theme of the play and discuss the general plot.

Paragraphs 2 & 3 - The Acting

React to two of the performers in the play. Be sure to use their names.

Were they believable: true to the play, the production, the theatrical conditions?

The following items should be discussed in your review.

You should respond with more than "yes" or "no" answers.

VOICE: volume, tempo, vocal quality, interpretation, articulation?

BODY: Were the gestures, movement, and business suitable to the characters?

EMOTIONS: Were reactions true? Climaxes achieved in the play by characters?

RELATIONSHIPS: Was there team work? Proper relationships by characters?

PROJECTION: Project orally and visually to the audience?

Paragraph 4 - The Design

The following items should be discussed in your review.

You should respond with more than "yes" or "no" answers.

SET: Did the set establish the correct mood and background for the play?

LIGHTS: Did the lighting convey the proper mood, emphasis, and illumination?

COSTUMES & MAKE UP: Were the costumes and makeup true to the period and characters?

SOUND: How did the sound effects and music contribute to the show's mood?



Short Paragraph 5 - Your Reaction

What was your opinion of the play?

Avoid generic phrases like: "two thumbs up" or "3 out of 5 stars"

DO:

1. Back up all your opinions with valid reasons.
2. Be objective, fair and constructive. Indicate good points along with those you felt needed improvement.
3. Evaluate the entire production.
4. Be sincere. Believe what you say.
5. Use MLA Format for your heading and margins.

DON'T:

1. Don't be overly critical. Approach a performance with an attitude of enjoying it.
2. Don't be arrogant. Be humble, kind, and understanding of the difficulty of performing.

A Format for Writing Theatre Reviews

Created by Jeff Bengford

Paragraph #1	When	On Thursday, June 11	
	What	I saw an original musical called “Tiger Stripes” written by Doug Soucha presented by TheatreWorks	
	Where	at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts.	
	Plot	This brilliant new work is about...	
Paragraph #2	Who	During the show, I very much enjoyed the performance of...	
		Actor’s name	
		Character they played	
		Discuss the use of their “tools” Voice, Body, Mind	
		Give examples	
Paragraph #3	Who else	I also would like to discuss the performance of...	
		Actor’s name	
		Character they played	
		Discuss the use of their “tools” Voice, Body, Mind	
		Give examples	
Paragraph #4	Wow!	In addition to the fine work of (actor’s names) I was also impressed with the technical aspects of the show.	
		Discuss the sets, lights, costumes, props	
Paragraph #5	Wrap it Up	I enjoyed this production and...	

MLA Guidelines for Papers

Recommendations are based on the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.

Paper: Use white, college-ruled, 8 1/2- by 11-inch paper. Do not submit erasable, colored, shiny paper, or pages obviously torn out of a spiral notebook.

Fonts: Use 12 point font. Avoid ornate fonts; use standard fonts such as Times, Ariel, Palatino, or New York. Do not use italics for underlining titles of books or long poems: underline book, movie, and television program titles where necessary.

Format: Leave a one-inch margins around the entire text of your paper. Paragraphs should be indented half an inch; longer quotations (more than four typed lines) should be indented an inch from both margins.

Spacing: Any typed work should be double-spaced. Do not add extra spaces between paragraphs.

Binders: Do not trap assignments in a binder. A staple in the upper left-hand corner will suffice.

Documentation: Each time quotations are used in your text, you must document them. Sources that have influenced you must also be documented. Quoted passages should follow this format:

"Ever since my mother left us that April, I knew they would all leave eventually, one by one" (59).

When quoting more than one source, include the author's name before the page number.

The book's full title should be listed in a list of works cited at the end of the paper. If it is obvious who a quotation comes from, the author's name may be omitted. Under no circumstances should "p." or "pg." ever be used in citing your sources.

Heading & Title Format for papers

	Student's Last Name and Page Number	
○	Student's Name	
	Teacher's Name	
	Course Title and Period	
	Date the assignment is due (no abbreviations)	
	Place Your Title Here	
	Begin your paper here...	