

# Theatre Critique

A critique is a formal, written discussion of a performance of a play or musical. The evaluation should contain five paragraphs. Use MLA Format for your heading and margins.

## \_\_\_\_\_/15 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.

## \_\_\_\_\_/50 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?

## \_\_\_\_\_/ 20 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/characters?

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

## \_\_\_\_\_/15 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. Be sincere. Believe what you say.
4. 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 remember the challenges of doing live theatre.

Remember: **PROOF YOUR WORK! I ONLY GRADE TO THE FIFTH (5) MISTAKE.**

DO NOT USE CONTRACTIONS (It is a FORMAL WRITING!)

Total\_\_\_\_\_