

American Drama and Film
Mrs. Hoover
Summer Assignment - Play Attendance and Response
Due Thursday, August 29th

To better understand how drama is written for theatrical production, I would like you to attend as many plays as possible during the year. So that we all have a solid and fresh foundation for talking about a play as performance, your summer assignment is to get to the theatre and write about what you see.

During the course of the year, we will focus on American Drama, but for the summer I will not confine you to that perimeter. You are welcome to attend any full length play or musical that you wish. I have only two requirements 1) the performance must be done by high school age actors or older. It just isn't fair to evaluate the work of fourth graders. 2) It needs to be a show that you are seeing this summer (from June 9- August 28 2018) specifically for this assignment. Do not try to pass off some show you saw two years ago as the basis for the assignment. I will know and you will start the year with a zero.

So, where to find this performance? You don't have to go to NY and spend hundreds of dollars to see a show for this assignment. First of all, virtually every town does free Shakespeare – check these out:

Elm Shakespeare - <https://www.elmshakespeare.org/shakespeare-in-the-park/>

Curtain Call - <https://www.curtaincallinc.com/shows/shows-curtain-calls-shakespeare-on-the-green-presentation-much-ado-about-nothing/>

Shakespeare on the Sound - <http://www.shakespeareonthesound.org/>

But it doesn't have to be Shakespeare – try these:

Westport Country Playhouse - <https://www.westportplayhouse.org/>

Ivoryton Playhouse - <http://www.ivorytonplayhouse.org/>

The Bushnell - <https://bushnell.org/>

The Shubert - <https://shubert.com/>

After attending this performance, you will be asked to write a response to what you have seen. It will be approximately 3 pages and must answer the following question:

Everything that you see in a production is a choice – the lighting, the set, the way in which that actors move on stage – intended to help better convey the story and message to the audience. Select and discuss two or three of the following elements of the production - set, costumes, lighting, sound, actors, direction, or script. Explain what you saw and articulate why you think these choices were being made. Try to be as specific as possible.

To conclude your paper, discuss *why* is *this* play being performed right here, right now? What does it say to people here in CT or NY in 2019? How does the play address issues, concerns, and ideas current in contemporary society?

This assignment should be typed and formatted correctly, with your heading, etc. You will be required to attach your ticket stub and program to your paper on the first day of class.