



Each student must see one play this semester and write a play critique. A specific written critique form will be handed out and discussed in detail before students have to write. The written review is due the Monday after the last performance of the play. If this should cause financial hardship, please see me.

You are required to submit one play critique this semester, so be sure to plan accordingly!

Play Critiques are Due Monday May 13, 2024

Requirements:

- **Due Date:** Each critique is due the first Monday after the last performance, at the beginning of the period. If the last performance is on Sunday, the critique is due first thing on Tuesday.
- **Evidence:** You must have a program and ticket stub. ! The program and ticket stub must be stapled to the front of your play critique. If a ticket and/or program are not issued, explain why in the first paragraph of your critique.
- **Written Critique:** Final drafts will be in MLA format (proper heading, size 12 Times New Roman font, double spaced, printed on one side of the page, 1" margins). Submit your printed play critique in F2-2.
- **Things to Consider:** Remember this is a five-paragraph critique. Check spelling, run-on sentences, punctuation, capitalization, and be sure to always *italicize* the title of the production. Do not label each paragraph. As this is a personal opinion paper, there is no need to use "I" or "I feel" or "I think." *Do not use "I,"* okay? Also, do not use words such as "a lot," "good," or "great" to describe the performance. They are too general and basically mean nothing.
- **Lastly:** I want specifics and as many details as possible. You must consider the reader has not seen the production; consequently, you need to write this paper so that the reader can visualize what you saw! It may be a very good idea to bring a pad of paper and take some notes during or right after the show!

Types of Critiques: While the Basic Play Critique format will cover most of the play you may see, I have included several other options to cover a variety of other play experiences. If you performed in the production or worked crew, there are unique critique formats to fill out. Additional formats include children's theatre and dance productions.



Your Name

Course Title, Period

Day Month Year (Date you attended the show)

Play Critique Format (Basic)

Play Critique of...[Name of Production]

Paragraph 1: (Minimum of seven sentences)

Write a two-sentence **summary** of the play. If there is a **subplot**, write a two-sentence summary of it as well. Use this paragraph to identify major **characters**, **setting** (both time and place), and **genre** of your show (comedy, drama, tragedy, musical theatre, parody, etc). Who was the **target audience**? Consider age, demographics, location of audience, ect. How did the play lend itself to that particular audience. Start your first sentence: [*Title of the play*] is about...

Paragraph 2: (Minimum of five sentences)

State the **theme** of the play. This is the author's purpose and/or message. Relate this theme to the characters and action of the play. *Cite specific examples* from the play to prove your point. Remember a theme is a complete sentence that reflects a complete idea and is not merely a topic. "Freedom" is not a theme. An example of a theme statement is "society must protect and develop the individual rights of each person." Notice the theme statement has a subject and a verb. Avoid cliches such as "Crime doesn't pay," or "Blood is thicker than water."

Paragraph 3: (Minimum of six sentences)

This paragraph discusses two areas of **technical theatre**. Pick two: set, costumes, lights, sound/music, advertising, or the theatre company's poster (not the one you find online!). Describe the technical element in great detail, then tell how each related to or enhanced the play. (For example, if it is a musical, describe the style of the music and explain how that affected your mood as you watched the show.) Remember the technical theater terms you learned. Use **details** from the play to support your discussion.

Paragraph 4: (Minimum of six sentences)

Take one lead character and analyze how the actor or actress made you believe in that character. What is the name of the actor you are analyzing, and which character did he or she portray? What personality traits, elements of voice, and physical expression did he or she use? Did you believe him or her? Why or why not? Give details. This is *not* an analysis of the character, but the actor's portrayal of the character.

Paragraph 5: (Minimum of five sentences)

Give your opinion or feeling of the play. Would you consider this production to be well done? Did it meet your expectations? Explain, using examples from the play. Be specific!



Play Critique Format (Acting)

Your Name

Course Title, Period

Day Month Year (Date you attended the show)

Play Critique of...[Name of Production]

Paragraph 1: (Minimum of six sentences)

Who is your character and what does he/she do in the play? What is your character's main objective in the play? What motivates him/her to do what he/she does in the play? What obstacles do they face? How do they overcome these obstacles?

Paragraph 2: (Minimum of six sentences)

What did you as an actor or actress do to create your role? What gestures or quirks made your character stand apart from the rest? Why did you make those choices and what influenced you to make them? Use specific examples from your performances!

Paragraph 3: (Minimum of six sentences)

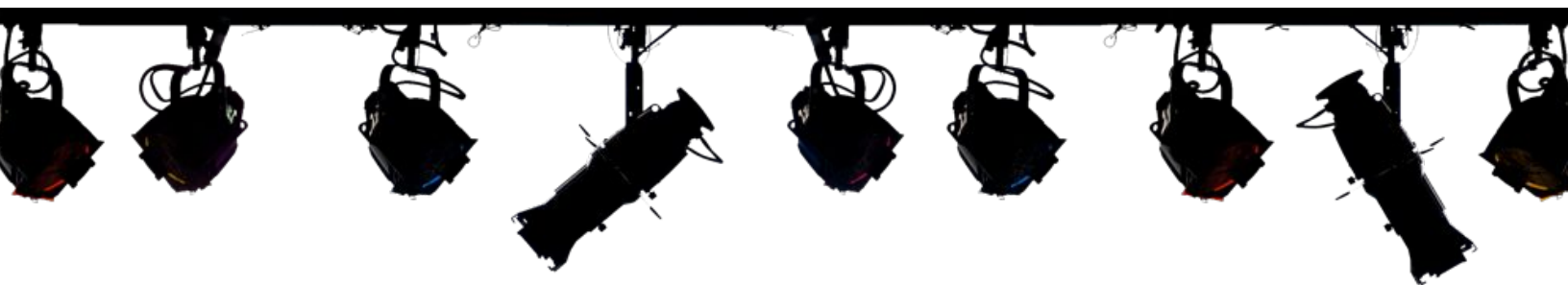
What were your best and worst performances and why? Provide specific examples from the show.

Paragraph 4: (Minimum of six sentences)

Discuss how everyone made the performance successful. Provide specific examples.

Paragraph 5: (Minimum of six sentences)

What did you learn from this performance? What would you do differently in your next performance? What are skills you need to strengthen before your next performance? How would you work on them? Be specific!



Play Critique Format (Crew)

Your Name

Course Title, Period

Day Month Year (Date you attended the show)

Play Critique of...[Name of Production]

Paragraph 1: (Minimum of six sentences)

Discuss your specific job and the hours involved with this technical activity. What did you do during rehearsals?

Paragraph 2: (Minimum of six sentences)

Discuss your process of developing your crew work: how this changed or stayed the same, what you had to do to get the job done, etc.

Paragraph 3: (Minimum of six sentences)

Discuss how your involvement with the show enhanced the production. Provide specific examples when applicable.

Paragraph 4: (Minimum of six sentences)

Discuss how everyone in the production, actors too, made the production successful. Provide specific examples.

Paragraph 5: (Minimum of six sentences)

What is one thing that you learned from this production that will enhance your next production?



Play Critique Format (Dance)

Your Name

Course Title, Period

Day Month Year (Date you attended the show)

Play Critique of...[Name of Production]

Paragraph 1: (Minimum of six sentences)

Pick one of the dance numbers. Could the audience relate the title of the dance to the actual performance? Example: if the name of a particular dance number was "Angry Sea," could you, as a member of the audience, actually tell the dancers were portraying an angry sea? Why or why not? Use specific examples from the performance.

Paragraph 2: (Minimum of six sentences)

Select several other dances. What effect did costuming have on the different dances? Were the dances and costumes related? Explain your answer with specific details from the performance.

Paragraph 3: (Minimum of six sentences)

Select several more dances. What part did music and lighting play in the various dance numbers? How effective were they? Be specific!

Paragraph 4: (Minimum of six sentences)

Choreography is defined as the art of composing dances while directing is putting the important pieces of a play (people, words, actions, etc.) together in front of an audience. What aspects of theatre must the choreographer of a dance and the director of a play be aware of and have in common?

Paragraph 5: (Minimum of six sentences)

Sets and props are an important part of theatre. What roles do they play on a dance stage? Are they necessary? Why or why not?



Play Critique Format (Children's Theatre)

Your Name

Course Title, Period

Day Month Year (Date you attended the show)

Play Critique of...[Name of Production]

Paragraph 1: (Minimum of six sentences)

Write a two-sentence **summary** of the play. If there is a subplot, write a two-sentence summary of it as well. Use this paragraph to identify major characters, setting (both time and place), and genre of your show. Start your first sentence: (Title of the play) is about...

Paragraph 2: (Minimum of six sentences)

What was the moral of the play? Be sure to relate it to the characters and action of the play. Be specific and provide examples from the performance.

Paragraphs 3 and 4: (Minimum of six sentences each)

The ingredients for children's theatre are as follows: music, dance, action, color, and interesting, but not too scary, characters. Pick two of these components, one for each paragraph, explaining why each is important and if this production made both work. Again, give as many specific details as possible.

Paragraph 5: (Minimum of six sentences)

Pick one of the characters you liked most and tell why. What did the actor or actress do to create their role? What choices did they make to create this believable character?