**Audience Response Play Critique**

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

The critique should contain five paragraphs and fill one-two 12 point font-typed pages or 2-4 hand written pages.

*Short* **Paragraph 1 - The Basics**

* Introduce the name of the play, author, place of performance, date you saw the performance, and director.
* Create a strong thesis statement about your impression of the success or failure of the production; plan to support your thesis in the body of your essay.

**Paragraphs 2 & 3 - The Acting**

* React to **two** (one paragraph per performer) of the performers in the play. Be sure to use their names.
* Were they believable: true to the play, the production, and the theatrical conditions?

*The following items should be discussed in your review when evaluating acting:*

* VOICE: volume, tempo, vocal quality, interpretation, articulation?
* BODY: Were the gestures, movement, and business suitable to the characters?
* BELIEVABILITY: Were reactions true? Climaxes achieved in the play by characters?
* RELATIONSHIPS: Was there team work? Were the relationships by the characters consistent and believable?

**Paragraph 4 - The Design**

*The following items should be discussed in your review.*

* 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 & MAKEUP: Were the costumes and makeup true to the 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? Be sure to use specific evidence from the play to support your opinion.

***Avoid generic phrases like: “two thumbs up” or “3 out of 5 stars”***

**Dos and Don’ts**

**DO:**

* Back up all your opinions with valid reasons.
* Be objective, fair and constructive. Indicate good points along with those you felt needed improvement.
* Evaluate the entire production.
* Be sincere. Believe what you say.

**DON'T:**

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

**Audience Response Play Critique – 50 Points**

**Rubric**

**Mechanics /10**

1. Errors make paper indecipherable
2. Shows little control of basic grammatical conventions
3. Errors are present but not horribly distracting
4. A few spelling, punctuation, or usage errors but not many
5. Paper is impeccably proofread and clean of errors and mistakes

**Length /10**

1. Less than a half of a page turned in
2. More than half of a page but less than the full requirement
3. Meets 1-2 page typed requirement or 2-4 pages hand written

**Style /10**

2-Vocabulary and sentence structure is extremely basic and elementary

4-Vocabulary is repetitive and uninspiring and sentences are incorrectly formed

6-The tone is ill-suited for the topic, and the vocabulary attempts some variety

8-The tone is appropriate and the vocabulary varies. Various types of sentences are correctly used.

1. --WOW. Great vocabulary is used correctly and the tone is inspiring and appropriate. Sentences flow and read beautifully.

**Content /20**

**Organization:**

1. There is no central idea
2. Ideas are not organized in a coherent manner
3. Ideas are well organized; writing makes sense.
4. Student has organized ideas around a central theme with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a satisfying conclusion.

**Elaboration:**

1. Student discusses one or two elements of required content (two actors and all elements of spectacle).
2. Student discusses half of required content (two actors and all elements of spectacle).
3. Student discusses most of required content (two actors and all elements of spectacle). Student also provides some insight and detail from the production to support their assertions.
4. Student discusses all of required content (two actors and all elements of spectacle). Student also provides extensive insight and details from the production to support their assertions.