

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.
- Discuss your understanding of the theme of the play. What does the playwright or the director want the audience to come away with from watching the show?
- 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? Describe the language used by the character: is it formal, casual, full of slang? Does it enhance your understanding of the character or take away from it?
- 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

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

Length _____/10

- 2- Less than a half of a page turned in
- 6- More than half of a page but less than the full requirement
- 10- 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.
- 10- --WOW. Great vocabulary is used correctly and the tone is inspiring and appropriate. Sentences flow and read beautifully.

Content _____/20

Organization:

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

Elaboration:

- 2- Student discusses one or two elements of required content (two actors and all elements of spectacle).
- 6- Student discusses half of required content (two actors and all elements of spectacle).
- 8- 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.
- 10- 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.