

Write a Play Review

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn to think critically about a piece of theatre.
- Students will begin to build familiarity with tools of literary analysis.

MATERIALS

- Paper, erasers, markers, crayons, colored pencils, pens, etc.

PROCEDURE

1. Explain to students how to write a review using these guidelines:
 - a. Make sure your review is not simply a summary of the plot but that it includes specific details about the performance and your impression of it.
 - b. Use names when describing people - including the playwright, the director, and actors. Your first sentence should also name the play and where and when you saw it performed.
 - c. Include observations of the set, costumes, and special effects in addition to the acting.
 - d. Support your opinions with your experience. If you liked the show, describe specific details about what you liked. If you didn't like the show, explain why. Don't just say the show was bad or good. We want to know why you felt that way.
 - e. Your review should not address issues with the storyline or the words themselves, but how the story was performed. Your job is to describe the play truthfully and then to decide if it was done well based upon what you have seen and what you expected.
 - f. The tone of your writing should be objective, meaning separated from your feelings. Remember that the people who put on the play have feelings too. You don't want to be mean or nasty in your review. It's okay to be *critical*, but that means that your words should be focused on making the show better, not hurting someone's feelings.
 - g. In your review, consider what you thought the play would be like. Then discuss whether it met your expectations.