

# How To Write A Play Review

Students must turn in a typed essay, 12 point font using Times New Roman or similar standard style and black ink. Attached to the review will be a copy of the program and ticket stub.

## Introduction and Cover

1. Give title, author, and type of play.
2. Give date of production, place, and name of performing group.
3. Include program of play with your review.
4. Include your name, teacher name and period you have that class.

## Essay Outline

**The review will be in essay form, at least Six paragraphs and at least five sentences each paragraph. Expand your thinking.**

- I. Theme of play (main subject matter or message of the play.)
- II. Brief Summary of story or plot.
- III. Technical evaluation. (Did the setting, lighting, costuming, make up, sound effects, etc., fit the play? Did they help communicate the play's message or detract from the play in some way?)
- IV. Acting evaluation. (Were the actors convincing in their characters? Did all characters do their share, or did some detract by not doing as well as they should? What about their voices and movement? Did any of the actors underplay or overplay their parts? Were there any outstanding performances? Be specific: give details, like actor's names, etc.)
- V. Directing evaluation. (Did the stage stay comfortably balanced? Did all aspects of the production communicate the same idea or feeling, or were some things not harmonious? In your opinion did this production interpret the play (the script) to your satisfaction? Do you think it was true to what you think the playwright had in mind in writing this play? Were any aspects of the play confusing? Be specific: give details.)
- VI. Personal opinion. (You may discuss any aspect of the play you wish, **but give valid reasons with specific details to justify or explain your opinions.**)

## **Theatre Etiquette**

- **Present tickets to the usher who will greet you and present you with a program. Look at this program for information about the play and the actors in the play.**
- **Do not eat or drink inside a theatre!**
- **When lights are dimmed, all talking stops. There is absolutely no talking during the performance. Wait for the intermission to talk.**
- **In the case of a musical, the conductor will appear in the orchestra pit, the audience usually applauds and the music begins.**
- **The audience will applaud at the end of a scene, or in the case of a musical, a song, particularly if it has been well preformed. Whistling or calling out is unacceptable.**
- **Feet stay on the ground, never on the seat in front of you.**
- **The lights will come up to signify intermission, this is the time to use the restroom or enjoy a refreshment. There will be a flashing of lights or ushers will come by to signal you to return quickly to your seat as the next act is ready to begin.**
- **At the end of the performance, an audience will show its appreciation by applauding the individual performances of the actors. If it is a musical, the company will indicate to you the conductor of the orchestra and the musicians who are also recognized with applause. If it has been an especially good production, an appreciative audience will stand.**