

Five Part Film Review

A. Opening: Catch the Reader's Attention

Think about how advertisements sell films: "Trailers" show you a few seconds of the film to get you interested.

When you begin your film review, make your own "trailer." If you liked the film, then your trailer should make people want to see it; but if you didn't like it, the trailer should be something that shows why you didn't like it. Don't explain why you liked it or didn't like it; make the reader like or not like the film by what you describe. Begin your review by retelling an incident or moment from the film which you think captures the spirit of the film as you understood it.

Alternative: Begin your review with another kind of story or interesting fact--about one of the star actors, or about the making of the film, or about the director.

B. Take Care of Business

Near the beginning of the review, you have to tell the reader the obligatory information: the title of the film, the director, the studio, the main actors, the year it was made, the rating, etc. This paragraph tells the reader the things they have to know about the film. Also, in one sentence or two, you should explain very simply what the film is all about--not necessarily what happens, but the overall concept.

C. Character and Plot Summary

What happens in the film? You shouldn't tell everything that happens--and especially not the ending. But you want to summarize the basic plot of the film, in more detail than you do in the paragraph above.

One way to do this might be to write a sentence about each main character. Make sure these sentences flow well together.

D. A Key Moment, Technique, or Idea

In this paragraph, go into detail about something important that interested you about the film. If it was a musical, you should say something about the songs. Or if the soundtrack was particularly good, you could write about that. Or write more about one character who was really intriguing. Or write about a specific film making technique that the director used. Or retell a big moment from the film and explain why it is important. If you think the "idea" behind a film was really interesting, explain that idea. In this paragraph, you must go into depth about one aspect of the film.

E. Evaluate the Film

Do you recommend this film or not? Who will like it? The most important thing here is that you must also explain *why* you are making your recommendation.

You must justify your opinion--and that opinion should grow out of what you write in the rest of the review. Give at least two reasons why you liked or didn't like the film.

NAME:

	6 Exemplary	5 Strong	4 Proficient	3 Developing	2 Emerging	1 Beginning
Ideas & Content ☐☐ main theme ☐☐ supporting details	Exceptionally clear, focused, engaging with relevant, strong supporting detail	Clear, focused, interesting ideas with appropriate detail	Evident main idea with some support which may be general or limited	Main idea may be cloudy because supporting detail is too general or even off-topic	Purpose and main idea may be unclear and cluttered by irrelevant detail	Lacks central idea; development is minimal or non-existent
Organization ☐☐ structure ☐☐ introduction ☐☐ conclusion	Effectively organized in logical and creative manner Creative and engaging intro and conclusion	Strong order and structure Inviting intro and satisfying closure	Organization is appropriate, but conventional Attempt at introduction and conclusion	Attempts at organization; may be a “list” of events Beginning and ending not developed	Lack of structure; disorganized and hard to follow Missing or weak intro and conclusion	Lack of coherence; confusing No identifiable introduction or conclusion
Voice ☐☐ personality ☐☐ sense of audience	Expressive, engaging, sincere Strong sense of audience Shows emotion: humor, honesty, suspense or life	Appropriate to audience and purpose Writer behind the words comes through	Evident commitment to topic Inconsistent or dull personality	Voice may be inappropriate or non-existent Writing may seem mechanical	Writing tends to be flat or stiff Little or no hint of writer behind words	Writing is lifeless No hint of the writer
Word Choice ☐☐ precision ☐☐ effectiveness ☐☐ imagery	Precise, carefully chosen Strong, fresh, vivid images	Descriptive, broad range of words Word choice energizes writing	Language is functional and appropriate Descriptions may be overdone at times	Words may be correct but mundane No attempt at deliberate choice	Monotonous, often repetitious, sometimes inappropriate	Limited range of words Some vocabulary misused
Sentence Fluency ☐☐ rhythm, flow ☐☐ variety	High degree of craftsmanship Effective variation in sentence patterns	Easy flow and rhythm Good variety in length and structure	Generally in control Lack variety in length and structure	Some awkward constructions Many similar patterns and beginnings	Often choppy Monotonous sentence patterns Frequent run-on sentences	Difficult to follow or read aloud Disjointed, confusing, rambling
Conventions ☐☐ age appropriate, spelling, caps, punctuation, grammar	Exceptionally strong control of standard conventions of writing	Strong control of conventions; errors are few and minor	Control of most writing conventions; occasional errors with high risks	Limited control of conventions; frequent errors do not interfere with understanding	Frequent significant errors may impede readability	Numerous errors distract the reader and make the text difficult to read

COMMENTS:

OVERALL GRADE: