

## Writing a film review:

Writing a successful review requires an understanding of what you think and why you think it. There is no way to have a wrong opinion, but in order to have a useful opinion; you must be able to explain your opinion clearly. Your job is to help readers in determining whether they want to watch the movie. The review should give enough details about the movie that the reader can make an informed decision, **without** giving anyway any essentials such as the plot or any surprises. Movie reviews analyze the effectiveness of the plot, theme, acting, direction, special effects, music, cinematography, and all other elements that help to create the movie.

### Guidelines:

Avoid the use of generalized opinions such as "oh, it was a great movie" or "the acting was horrible." Instead, give specific reasons and analysis.

Follow this format to write your review:

Paragraph 1: Start with a hook to gain the reader's attention. Include a quote from the movie or start with a vivid scene description. Connect the quote or scene to your thesis. Your thesis should be the last sentence of this paragraph and offer a preview of your opinion on the film.

Paragraph 2: Include the following: the name of the film, the director, prominent stars, basic setting, and genre. Find an interesting way to transition through these details.

Paragraph 3: Write a brief plot summary. Do not reveal the ending. Discuss at least 5 events and be sure to cover the entire scope of the movie, except the very end.

Paragraph 4: Discuss one aspect of filmmaking in detail. You may choose from acting, direction, editing, costumes, set design, cinematography, music, or anything else you think relevant. Be sure that you are specific and cite examples from the movie.

Paragraph 5: You will give your overall reaction to the film as well as your opinion on the quality of the film. Make sure to also include your recommendations for potential viewers.

Rubric:

Paragraph 1 = 20 points

Paragraph 2 = 10 points

Paragraph 3 = 20 points

Paragraph 4 = 30 points

Paragraph 5 = 20 points

TOTAL =100 points