



# DRAMA CRITIQUE GUIDELINES

You are required to write one critique of a LIVE theatrical performance PER SEMESTER.

{That means 2 (TWO) per school year.}

A **critique** is a 5 paragraph essay, describing several theatrical elements you observe. The following outline will help you organize your paragraphs.

## 1. Introduction (1 paragraph)

- a. Play's *Title* as well as the *Date & Place* of performance
- b. Your expectations before going to the play.
- c. First impressions
- d. Any comments about the plot/story
- e. Lead into the rest of the critique
  - i. Give us an idea of what you thought of the play

Since the **body** of your essay only needs to be 3 paragraphs, pick which sub-topics you would like to write about.

## 2. Body (3-5 paragraphs)

**Costumes** (Describe 2 specific examples)

Accuracy  
Coloring

**Technical** (Choose 2 specific aspects you observed. Describe in detail.)

Lighting  
Sound  
Sets  
Props

**Acting** (Identify & describe two performers. - save your program!)

Believability  
(Did the actors commit to their roles?)

Expression  
Volume

Compatibility  
(Were they right for the part?)

**Music** (If you see a musical, choose 2 aspects to DESCRIBE)

Did it fit the mood?

Singing (if any- give specific examples)

Dancing (if any- give specific examples)

## 3. Conclusion (1 paragraph)

- f. Confirm or deny your initial expectations
- g. Brief review (revisit something you either really liked or disliked)
- h. Recommendation

Format:

- Critiques must be **typed**, following appropriate **MLA FORMAT**.
- Approximate length should be **one and a half pages** (DOUBLE SPACED).
- Use 12 pt., TIMES NEW ROMAN font.
- **Margins** should measure **one inch** on all four sides .
- Remember to be a good audience member.
- Be on time. Listen quietly. Applaud and/or laugh when it is appropriate.
- You may only critique productions with actors intermediate school age or older.
- **ALL CRITIQUES ARE DUE TWO WEEKS AFTER YOU SEE EACH PLAY.**