

Writing a Movie Review

Watch any movie your parents allow and **write a movie review** such as what you would read on yahoo. Do NOT start out by saying "the film I chose was..." **Minimum 1.5 pages** hand-written, single spaced or 1.5 pages typed, double spaced. (8.5 x 11" paper) Multiple paragraphs required. Plagiarism is **NOT ALLOWED**.

NOTE: the assignment is not to answer these questions as you did in the last assignment. It is to write critique (**essay form**) with multiple paragraphs in which you include these items:

Pick a creative headline (that is **not** the same as the title of the movie)

Paragraph 1

Give your opinion, overall

Name what stands out the most as your overall impression – or REALLY jumps out at you. Use one or two sentences for this.

Name the movie

If not already done in the first sentence, tell us the title of the movie. Also name the director and any main actors. Are there big stars that would draw people in to see it (George Clooney, Nicole Kidman) or was there an unknown in the lead role that is worth noting? You can give your opinion of the actors here, or later in your paper. But it must be *your* opinion

Paragraph 2 Summarize the plot

This should not give away the ending of the film. The summary segment should be no longer than 1/3 of a page. Follow this with an opinion of the plot and characters. Are they unique or original? Were there surprises? **Give examples from the film.**

Paragraphs 3-4. Technical and critique – opinions and examples

Choose 2-4 elements on which you have an opinion and in your paper state that opinion backing it up with specific examples from the film.

- Writing
- Acting
- Casting
- Lighting
- Production design (set, props)
- Special effects
- Editing / pacing
- Music
- Costume design
- Cinematography

Paragraph 5. Story critique: what worked well, what didn't, and why?

- What didn't work so well for me was...
- Would I recommend this movie to others...and if so, whom?
- Rate your chosen movie on a scale and note what scale is. For example – thumbs up/thumbs down, # stars out of 5 possible, etc.

Please complete this checklist for your paper and include it with your homework:

Movie Review Grading Checklist

- _____ Gave the paper a creative title (not movie title), written at top of the paper
- _____ opinion and movie title are given in the first paragraph
- _____ started second paragraph with a short synopsis of the story
- _____ gave opinions on categories relevant to the film and named actors
- _____ used examples from film to back up opinions
- _____ did not give away the ending of the film (unless the film is a classic)
- _____ named who they would recommend it to, or to no one and why
- _____ rated movie on a scale, and scale is noted
- _____ comments covered at least 1.5 full pages (8.5 x 11" paper)
- _____ turned in on time, **NOT** copied off internet.