

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Semester Project: Play Review Assignment

Live performance is an experience that is totally unique and very rewarding. By watching live theater we experience the world from multiple viewpoints. We learn important lessons along with characters in a play and we use them to escape from our own lives and journey into someone else's life for a little while. These are just a few of the experiences we have at a live performance.

Actors can benefit even further from live theater by watching and learning from professionals. When attending live performances, actors can learn from the best and form their own opinions about performing.

For these reasons, attending a live performance once throughout the semester is a required assignment for each student participating in theater. In a well written, 5 paragraph essay format, each student will review a live performance seen during the course of the semester.

#### Review Requirements:

- The paper is well edited. Capitalization, punctuation, and full sentences are mandatory.
- The paper follows the 5 paragraph essay format with introductory, supporting, and concluding sentences.
- It includes a brief overview of the plot.
  - Briefly summarize the plot. Describe the beginning, the middle, and the end (no matter how famous the story is).
- The review includes a paragraph about the acting.
  - Elements to consider: Who was your favorite actor? Why? What specific things did the actors do that made their performance effective/ineffective? Could anything be improved upon? (*Avoid sentences like, "The main character's acting was bad." Instead try, "The main character was not very convincing because he spoke monotonously and his lines weren't memorized"*)
- The paper includes a paragraph about costumes.
  - Evaluate the costumes. Describe them. What was interesting? How did they help you understand the characters?
- It includes a paragraph about the technical aspects of the play.
  - Evaluate the set, the lighting, etc. Describe them. Did they make sense? Did they help convey meaning? What was the mood for the show?
- The author uses specific examples to support their statements
- The paper includes a conclusion that summarizes the overall message of the review.

All play reviews are due by: \_\_\_\_\_ January 7 \_\_\_\_\_

Play Review Rubric

	Excellent Quality 20pts	Standard Quality 10pts	Quality Needs Improvement 5pts	Incomplete 0pts
Plot Summary	Paragraph includes a brief overview of the beginning, middle, and end of the show. Reader has no difficulty knowing what the basics of the play are.	Paragraph included a brief overview of most of the elements of the story but was missing one. Reader can grasp most of what the story is.	Plot summary only highlighted one part of the story (beginning, middle, or end). Reader has a hard time figuring out what the story is.	Plot summary was missing, incoherent, or wrong. Reader cannot ascertain what the story is about from the review.
Performance Evaluation	The critique of the acting is thoughtful. Writer gives evidence to support their statements. It includes insightful detail.	The critique is average, including some detail but not much depth. The writer uses some detail to support their statements.	The review includes some reference to the acting. It makes observations without supporting their statements with examples.	There is no evaluation of the actor's performances or evaluation is incomplete and unspecific.
Costume Evaluation	Costume evaluation is descriptive and thoughtful. Writer describes one or two of them and discusses how the costumes tie to character.	Writer describes a costume and includes some discussion of how it ties to character. Needs to include more depth.	Writer describes costumes but does not include how the costumes reveal character.	There is no evaluation of costume and no descriptions. Writer needs to tie the costumes back to the characters.
Technical Elements	Review addresses both lights and set in detail. Evaluates how they were used and their effectiveness.	Review addresses lights and set. Could have used more detail. Evaluates how they were used and their effectiveness.	Describes lights and sets but does not evaluate how they were used or their effectiveness.	Review is missing a description of one or both the lights and the set. There is no evaluation of how they were used or their effectiveness.
Execution and Editing	Review is well written. With no errors in grammar, punctuation, spelling, etc. It is thoughtful and shows obvious use of time and effort.	Review is well written with few errors. It is thoughtful and shows some use effort. A little more time would make it perfect.	Review has numerous errors. More time and effort needs to be displayed.	Review is incomplete. Shows lack of effort. Writer needs to give review more time and effort.