



Top Tips for Writing Reviews

There is no one correct way to write reviews, and we welcome a creative approach, so give it a go! Here are some tips which we hope will help you to get started:

Get prepared

1. Spend some time thinking about the performance that you are going to see and the company/artist – it might be useful to look at what else they have done and do a bit of research before you attend the event. You might want to take notes during, or immediately after the performance if it helps you remember details and it is worth looking at the programme or free sheet for more information about what you are going to review.
2. Think about who your reader or 'audience' is for the review. Why would someone be interested in reading your review? What do they need to know? What sort of interests are they likely to have?
3. Read other people's reviews. Check out who is writing reviews in your area, nationally and online. Try to read a range of styles and opinions. To read other young people's reviews check out Cuckoo Review [here](#) and read art/film/theatre/book critics' work – you can find these online. Don't forget about social media reviews – on blogs, YouTube, websites, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Get writing

4. Engage your reader. Be interested and passionate. Use your own knowledge/reference points. Have a voice and an opinion – that's why people read reviews. Don't be afraid to experiment with style, it's not an essay, so you can use varied language, description, quotes and talk about yourself as well as the performance.
5. Include the information that you need – and get it right! You will need to include the title of the performance/event, the name of the artist/company, as well as when/where they can see the performance. Check your spelling of names and include links if needed. We ask for reviews to be up to 500 words as a guideline.
6. Start with a compelling fact or opinion on the performance. You want to get the reader interested immediately and give them a feel for what your opinion is. Think about doing a review in a nutshell, or synopsis, or relating it to current events or happenings. Give the reader some context for the piece, is it the first film the director has done, part of a franchise, a sequel? Does the performer usually do political dramas or include multi-media in performances?
7. You don't need to give a star rating, but do make it clear what your opinion is early on. Then back it up with some evidence, talk about a specific scene or moment, or an actor's performance.

8. Don't re-tell the story or plot of the performance – and don't include spoilers (if you do, make sure you highlight it). Instead write about the music, lighting, editing, acting or direction and give specific examples of what you enjoyed.
9. Finish the review by writing about your overall opinion, and whether you would recommend the reader to go and see it – this is why people usually read reviews – to help them decide.

Get published

10. Submit your review by the deadline set. Up to date content is very important for the reader/audience and the venue/artist – a 48 hour turn-around is usual so do plan your time ahead to make sure you have time to write the review and read it through, plus make any changes or edits you think it needs.
11. Share your review with others. If possible get some feedback on your writing and use this to improve for the next time.

Read more

<http://www.wikihow.com/Write-a-Movie-Review>

<http://review.cuckoowriters.com/film-review-alien-covenant-tyneside-cinema/>

<https://savidgereads.wordpress.com/2017/06/02/the-power-naomi-alderman/>

https://www.rottentomatoes.com/critics/latest_reviews

<http://lwlies.com/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/journalists/robbie-collin/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2017/jun/04/my-life-as-courgette-review>