

## APSU Writing Center

### Writing a Movie Review

#### What is a movie review?

- A movie review is an evaluation of a film that includes a summary of the movie and any relevant analysis and opinion. It is a well-balanced overview of key points that considers the inner story, themes, and other elements.
- Reviews analyze the effectiveness of the plot, theme, acting, direction, special effects, musical effects, cinematography, and other elements that created the movie. There are qualities and guidelines that a critique of a movie should possess. Avoid the use of generalized opinions such as “it was a great movie” or “the acting was horrible,” give specific descriptions.

#### How to prepare

- Read the description
- Note impactful moments
- Research on the director/ reasons for creating this film
- Explore film locations
- Watch the movie two or three times to mention all the details

#### Plot Components

- **Exposition:** the beginning of a story that represents the conflict, the actors, and the scene.
- **Rising Action:** the events before the culmination, where the characters try to solve the conflict, but they do not get it.
- **Climax:** is the highest point of stress of action.
- **Falling Action:** the events that follow after the climax.
- **Resolution:** the end of the story, shows the solution of problems and conflicts of the main characters.

#### Movie Review Steps

1. Watch the film critically
2. Divide the film into scenes
3. Determine the main idea
4. Analyze the most significant scenes
5. Present your point of view
6. Look through critical reviews
7. Write your first draft
8. Edit and proofread the text

#### Potential Topics

- Characters
- Special Effects
- Photography
- Music
- Plot
- Film

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#### Potential Questions to Answer

- What atmosphere does the movie convey?
- How does the director address the story? Which methods were utilized?
- How does the film differ from other movies filmed by this director?
- How is the conflict depicted in the film?
- Was the setting chosen right? What do you think about the costumes?
- What makes this particular movie good for you?
- How have the actors portrayed their characters?
- Are movie characters memorable and clear?
- How does the director depict the protagonist and antagonist? How does it influence the full story?
- What lessons does the film present?

#### Structure

- Introduction
- Summary
- Analysis of the plot
- Review of creative tools
- Evaluation of the cast
- Personal Opinions
- Conclusions

#### Example Phrases

- **Introduction:**
  - "In [movie title], director [director's name] takes audiences on a..."
  - "From the very first frame, [movie title] immerses viewers in a..."
  - "With high expectations, I settled into my seat to watch [movie title], hoping for..."
- **Plot Description:**
  - "The storyline of [movie title] revolves around..."
  - "The narrative unfolds with..."
  - "The plot is a rollercoaster ride of..."
- **Character Analysis:**
  - "The characters are well-developed, particularly [character's name], who..."
  - "The cast delivers outstanding performances, especially [actor's name], who..."
  - "The protagonist's journey is..."
- **Cinematography and Visuals:**
  - "The cinematography in [movie title] is breathtaking, with..."
  - "The visual effects are top-notch, creating a world that feels..."
  - "Each frame is meticulously crafted, showcasing the director's keen eye for..."

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#### Example Phrases

- **Sound and Music:**
  - "The soundtrack complements the film perfectly, enhancing the emotional impact of each scene."
  - "The use of sound design in [movie title] adds depth and realism to the story."
  - "The music score by [composer's name] is a standout element, elevating the overall experience."
- **Themes and Messages:**
  - "At its core, [movie title] explores themes of..."
  - "The film delves deep into issues such as..."
  - "The underlying message of [movie title] is..."
- **Pacing and Editing:**
  - "The pacing of the film keeps the audience engaged from start to finish."
  - "The editing is seamless, allowing the story to flow naturally."
  - "The film strikes a perfect balance between action and character-driven moments."
- **Emotional Impact:**
  - "I found myself deeply moved by the emotional depth of [movie title]."
  - "The film tugs at the heartstrings with its poignant moments."
  - "The ending left me with a sense of..."
- **Comparisons and References:**
  - "In the realm of [genre], [movie title] stands out as..."
  - "Fans of [director's name] will appreciate the signature style present in [movie title]."
  - "While not without flaws, [movie title] holds its own against similar films like..."
- **Conclusion and Recommendation:**
  - "In summary, [movie title] is a must-see for..."
  - "I highly recommend [movie title] to anyone who enjoys..."
  - "Overall, [movie title] is a cinematic triumph/feast/masterpiece that deserves..."
- **Rating or Score:**
  - "On a scale of 1 to 10, I would give [movie title] a solid [rating]."
  - "In my book, [movie title] earns a [rating] out of 5 stars."
  - "I would place [movie title] among the top films of the year, earning it a [rating] rating."
- **Closing Thoughts:**
  - "Whether you're a fan of the genre or not, [movie title] is an experience you won't want to miss."
  - "In a year filled with great films, [movie title] stands as one of the standout works."
  - "I eagerly await what [director's name] has in store for us next, as [movie title] showcases their undeniable talent."

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Movie Review Outline

**Introduction**

**Film Title:**

**Publication Year:**

**Director:**

**Screenwriter:**

**Your opinion of the film:** *(amazing, thrilling, thought-provoking, etc.)*

**Body: (Paragraph 1)**

**Brief Plot Summary:** *(One key moment/turning point/your reaction)*

**Body: (Paragraph 2)**

**Describe one or two main characters:** *(explain their relationship with examples from the film, explain how you relate to these characters)*

**Body: (Paragraph 3)**

**Discuss one aspect of the film:** *(give specific examples and why they were impressive: cinematography, music, etc.)*

**Conclusion**

**Provide a one or two sentence summary:** *(offer recommendations on who would enjoy the film)*