

## The Review

The purpose of a review is to provide potential audience members, readers, viewers or consumers with information regarding a particular experience, and most essentially, a considered opinion about the experience.

**The Review may relate to:**

- Theatre
- Film
- Books
- Restaurants
- Hotels
- Music
- Games
- Cars – the list goes on!

Published reviews vary a great deal as do the media in which they may be found. Some daily newspapers provide significant space for reviews, which is often determined by such considerations as the hype around a particular film and the money spent on advertising. Most daily newspapers however do offer a simpler service in the form of a brief taste test for the film goer who wants to know if the show is worth seeing.

**Where are reviews to be found?**

Reviews are commonly found in newspapers, magazines, radio and TV programs and most particularly now, on line.

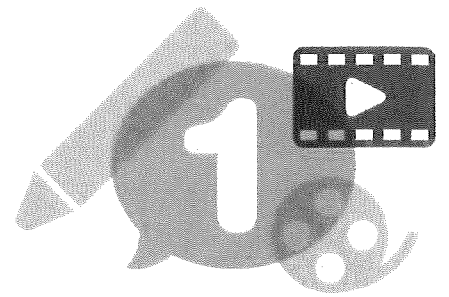
While reviews generally contain particular information and features, there is actually no one review style or structure that suits all purposes as different kinds of films naturally lead to different kinds of reviews.

**Broadly a review should:**

- Evoke (or give an accurate impression of) the film for someone who has not seen it.
- Convey a considered personal judgement of the quality of the experience
- Consider the style of the film

**Here are some questions, which you will normally need to consider when preparing a review,**

- **What kind of film is it and what is it about?** It is usually necessary to provide ( a very brief) summary of the main action- which does not include telling the whole story.
- **What is the genre?** (eg adventure, drama, romance, scifi or a mixture of styles?)
- **What is the nature of the film experience?** (Your own responses are crucial. Remember that the purposes of film are varied and so too are the expectations of audiences.
- **How good is it?**



In your response you need to express your judgement based on your level of interest and engagement in the film and also to the elements that together comprise a successful film experience. In thinking about any of these four questions you will need to describe aspects of the film in more detail. In other words, back up your judgement with evidence from the film. Some elements you may focus on include:

1. Acting
2. Direction
3. Design
4. Use of music and dance
5. Special effects
6. Imagery- in the spectacle
7. Camera work
8. Lighting
9. Technology or digital features

**Remember that these are only examples and not in all cases appropriate. In discussing any of these you should be as precise as possible.**

## **Presentation**

Your review should be headed with the following information: title, director, and venue.

Creating a review: Possible Structure

## **Introduction**

Introduce the full title, name of the, director, and where and when you saw the film.

Discuss the origin of the story- if relevant ie if it is based on a myth or story that everyone knows. You should also mention the genre - eg comedy. Give a brief personal opinion on how engaging you found the film to be and its overall appeal to an audience.

Note: it is important to provide an opinion early on in the review as some consumers only wish to hear, read the briefest summary and will not listen or read on.

## **Next:**

Briefly outline the plot, identifying key scenes and introduce the characters/actors. What is the style of the film? Does it have a theme or message?

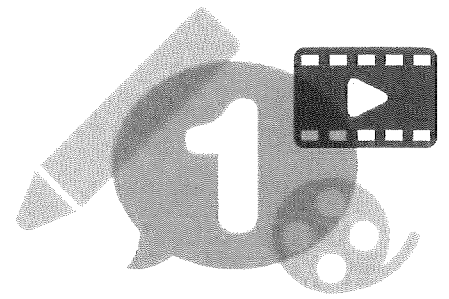
## **Continuing:**

Discuss the characters and the acting performances that bring them to life. Is there character development? Are the characters fully realized and well- rounded or are they one dimensional and not really believable?

## **To go on:**

Discuss and give your opinion about the camera work- remember film is a visual experience!

You may like to reflect on use of music/dance, sound and music and lighting. If there are multi-media elements, were they effective and how did they contribute to the overall experience? Special effects and direction may also be discussed.



**Further:**

What was the atmosphere and mood created by the film? How engaging did you find the film experience? Was the action well-paced or was it too slow or quick? Is the film targeted at a particular audience(s)? Why?

**Finally:**

Conclude by noting what the film accomplishes and how everything is tied together for you as an audience member. Restate your opinion about the film and summarise how successful you think it was - did it achieve its purpose?

Make sure you keep your conclusion consistent with the opinions you have expressed throughout your review.

**Now over to you and your creativity!**