

Writing the Reflective Review: Info Sheet

Use the Following Steps to Write Your Next Review

1. Pre-Show: What is the production trying to achieve?

Start documenting. Gather information. What can you learn from the marketing materials? What does the website say about the show? What do you know about the play? Is there a program or a poster? Write it down.

Then based on your list come up with three specific goals you're going to look for while watching the show.

2. During the Show: How does the production try to achieve their goals?

Based on question number one document what the production does. Look for your three goals. Don't worry about whether you like the play or you don't. Just write down what you see in reference to those three goals. Be specific. Look at the acting, the sets, the costumes. What does the production do?

3. Post-Show: How effective was the production in achieving their goals?

After the show automatic the first thing to do is write your gut reaction to the show. Get your words on the page. This is the place where you can be totally honest and brutal if you want. This is not going into your final review.

Next, be systematic. What was the goal, how did the production try to achieve it, and was it effective? If something wasn't effective, say why not. Reflect on the effectiveness of the production.

Don't forget the audience response. How did the audience respond to the play?

4. Write Your Review!

Remember. The review is not an "I like" or "I don't like" document. You have to go deeper than that. If you have followed the above three steps, you're going to be able to write a thoughtful, reflective account of your experience.