

Guidelines for the Play/Performance Review Fall 2021
Due 11/12/2021

The final date play reviews will be accepted is Friday, November 12, 2021.

o Typically play reviews have been on locally produced theatrical productions. HOWEVER, this year brings new challenges and therefore the assignment has adapted to the times. This year, the play/performance review can be written on: A TV SERIES offered on a streaming service; A movie; a live performance (if you can find one being done locally); a live event that is being streamed through a streaming service. Whichever thing you watch, you need to have watched it THIS SEMESTER, Fall 2021. **Assuming we can have our LIVE PLAY, all technical theatre students will get a free ticket to that performance on Thursday, 11/4/21. Students can also attend the Trumbauer District Theatre Festival at Lee HS on Saturday, 11/6/21 and all plays there are free. Schedule TBD.**

o Play/performance reviews must be 2-3 pages typed, in a font no larger than 12, double spaced. Hand-written play reviews are not acceptable.
Below are different elements in which to focus your play/performance review. It does not have to cover all of these areas, but these are ideas to get you started.

o Critically analyze the performances by the actors, form an opinion of their performance and back it up with information that you saw. Were the performances interesting? Were the performances believable? Were there parts that forced you to become disengaged? What specific moments in the play seemed to really win you over, or lose you?

o Critically analyze the direction of the piece. Was the director's work noticeable? What did you notice that could have been done better by the director? What directing techniques worked? What techniques did not work?

o Critically analyze the script. Was it worthwhile? Was it interesting or engaging? Was it appropriate for the audience members in attendance? Did the plot development keep you interested? Were the characters balanced and believable?

o Critically analyze the technical aspects of the piece. Were the costumes appropriate? Did the lighting support the director's and the playwright's vision? Did the sound design support the thematic elements? How did the set look and did it support the theme of the play? Did the props help support the play? What elements worked in the technical aspects of the piece? What did not work?

o What was being attempted? Have the intentions been achieved? Was the attempt worthwhile?

o Did you like the piece? Would you go to another production by this company? Why? Why not?

The play/performance review is considered the largest test grade (500 pts.) of the semester and will have an enormous impact on your overall grade in this class. **A PLOT SUMMARY IS NOT A PLAY REVIEW. In other words, don't just summarize what happened, but give a critical review of the performance(s) and how the technical elements helped support the goals of the storytellers.**

If you have questions or concerns email Mr. Merritt at the following address:
mcmerritt@madisoncity.k12.al.us

The Play/Performance Review is Due No Later Than 11/12/2021

It should be written on something the student has seen this semester (Fall 2021)
Please check your student's grammar and spelling, before submitting. Also, help ensure your student that their writing makes sense and has a logical flow. If it doesn't make sense, point out areas they need to re-visit to clarify their thoughts.