How to Write a Play Review

Resource: Hank Maine website

To write a play review, the student should watch the play, critique its elements, and write a review about the results. If the assignment does not specify what elements of the play to critique, the outline below could serve as a solid foundation for writing a play review.

Introduction Paragraph
- Give title, playwright, and type of play.
- Give date of production, place, and name of performing group.
- Include a program of the play with your review.

Essay Outline
I. Theme of play (main subject matter or message of the play)
II. Atmosphere (Tell how it was expressed in the scenery, lighting, and sound effects.)
III. Brief summary of story or plot
IV. Technical Evaluation
   A. Setting/Scenic design
   B. Lighting
   C. Costumes
   D. Sound design
V. Acting Evaluation
   A. Were the actors convincing in their roles?
   B. Did all of the actors work together to create an ensemble, or did some detract by not doing what they should?
   C. How did voice/movement affect believability?
   D. Did the actors underplay or overplay their parts?
E. Were there any outstanding performances? (Give specific examples and details.)

VI. Directorial Evaluation
   A. Did the stage stay comfortably balanced?
   B. Did all aspects of the production communicate the same concept or feeling or were some distracting?
   C. Did this production interpret the script to your satisfaction?
   D. Was the director's concept true to what you think the playwright intended?
   E. Were any aspects of the production confusing?
   F. Personal opinion (You may discuss any aspect of the play you wish, but give reasons to justify and explain your beliefs.)