

Stagecraft I/II
Play Review assignment

Name _____
Date _____ Per _____

Seeing good productions stimulates the imagination and gets a student asking, "how did they do that?" Seeing weaker productions can inspire the search for what improvements would make the show sparkle. In either case, seeing shows and thinking about shows is an essential part of the process of building a better techie.

Show your teacher

- this assignment sheet signed by you & parent/guardian due _____ (it will be immediately returned) _____ 5 pts
- your program and ticket stub (or note from parent/guardian) _____ 10 pts

Submit online through Turnitin.com

1. Go to www.turnitin.com
2. Create an account with a valid email address. You are **Student**. If you try to enter as **Instructor**, you will be blocked. You will have to create a new account.
3. Go back to homepage and login.
4. Class ID: 2874924, password Rosenpd6
5. Submit your paper to turnitin.com BEFORE handing in to Mr. Rosen _____ /10 pts

Turn in to your teacher

Typed, double-spaced review (no later than _____) _____ /30 pts
with this assignment sheet as cover sheet _____ /5 pts

(You **MUST** turn in your paper *within one (1) week* of seeing the show!!)

Total _____ /60 pts

** I have seen this assignment sheet, and understand that the project must be completed (a play seen, ticket stub & program shown to teacher, a review written up, and submitted online & hard copy turned in to teacher) NO LATER THAN _____.
signed:

parent _____ student

The three phases of writing a review:

- 1) **Collecting data**
- 2) **Responding to the production with emphasis on design and technical choices that support the overall goal of the production**
- 3) **Writing the review**

1) Collecting data

- See a performance soon. It can be any kind of play or pageant. It can be a professional play in Baltimore or D.C. It can be a middle school, high school, university, or elementary school production. It can be a community theatre production or a church musical or play.

Some sources to find out about shows:

- Local newspapers & magazines (Balt. Sun, (especially Thurs. Live) Wash. Post, (especially Fri Weekend & Sun. Arts) Ho. Co. Flier, Laurel Leader, etc., Md Family, City Paper, etc)
- posters & flyers (often in book stores, libraries and grocery stores)
- radio and television
- calling theatres listed in the phone book

the internet:

Ho. Co. High School Theatre information: <http://www.hcpss.org/arts/theatrearts/events.shtml>

Washington area theatre info www.helenhayes.org www.washingtonpost.com

Potomac Stages <http://www.potomacstages.com/>

Baltimore area theatre info <http://www.baltimoresun.com/entertainment/stage/>
www.baltimoreperforms.org & other theatre and/or city web sites)

- Take some notes at the performance. Keep the program and ticket stub to show your teacher. Observe and react to the performance. Make notes about the performances, the scenery, costumes, lighting-and your response to the show.

2) Responding to the production with emphasis on design and technical choices that support the overall goal of the production

- What is the playwright trying to do? How well has the playwright done it? Is it worth doing? How has the director and design team supported that?
- What is the design trying to do? Consider scenery, lighting, costumes, props, make-up, graphic design. How well has the design done it? What production choices really help? What might have worked better with other choices?
- What is the production trying to do? Consider scenery, lighting, costumes, props, make-up, graphic design. How well has the production done it? What production choices really help? What might have worked better with other choices?

3) Writing the review

Check the formatting on previous page.

Be fair, but honest

- Some of your review should report what you saw and heard
Some of your review should report what you thought and felt about it
- First paragraph
Your first sentence (lead) answers the 5W's & H: "who? (which theater?) what? (what show?) where? (where is the theatre?) when? (when did you see it and how long is it playing?) why? (why is the theater doing the show--for love, money, art, salvation, whatever you can figure out--read the program)" for the production. Include a one-sentence version of "how" as well.
- Second paragraph
Summarize what happens in the show (plot events), mention the major theme, and write a sentence or two about the author(s).
- Following paragraphs (2-5 more paragraphs)
Write about the production choices for the scenery, lights, costumes, props, makeup, sound, music, dance, program, graphics, etc. Describe and also respond to these elements.
What you do differently if you were doing the show, as a producer, designer, or technician?
Explain what, how, and why.