

HOW TO WRITE A PERFORMANCE REPORT

After attending a live music performance (Musical, choral or instrumental – not pop/country/etc.), you will write a Performance Report, which is an honest but tactful discussion and evaluation of the performance.

It must contain **multiple paragraphs** (see below). It must be typed (12 point font) and presented in MLA format. Additionally, the performance ticket stub and program/playbill **MUST** be attached upon submitting for credit.

Each of the musical and performance elements you will analyze in your review needs to be approached in three different steps:

FIRST – Describe what you saw and heard in detail. Make the reader see what you saw, hear what you heard. Be specific. Be thorough. Use adjectives and adverbs that paint a picture for the reader.

SECONDLY – Analyze what you think the performer, director, or composer was trying to achieve (or actor, director, or designer if you see a play). Why did they perform the music in that way? (For a play: Why did they design the movements, lights, sound effects, costumes, etc., that way?) What were they trying to make you, the audience, feel or think?

LASTLY – Judge how effective the choices and efforts were. Judge the performance fairly and accurately. Do not be cliché. (ie. Don't say things like: "It was awesome." "They had great chemistry." "It was good." Arghh...) Don't be afraid to tell your honest opinion, but be diplomatic. ***Do not be mean.*** If you have something positive to say, give credit to the individual. If you have something negative to say, be descriptive and clear. Do not say: "it was just bad."

Support your opinion using specific details from the performance to illustrate your points.

Here is the outline to follow for writing your reviews.

Intro Paragraph - The Basics

Include the answers to these questions:

- **Where** did you see the performance (name of school or theater)?
- **When** did you see the performance?
- **What** is the title of the performance?
- **Who** is performing it? **Who** wrote it (play/major work, ex. Handel's *Messaiah*)
- **What** is the main message/theme of the performance?
- What is your **overall impression** of the performance?

Paragraph 2 - The Plot (if seeing a play)

Briefly summarize the plot of the play or musical. Describe the main characters.



Paragraph 3 - The Performance

(Remember: describe, analyze, judge)

React to the performers. (Be sure you mention the performer's actual name, as well as his or her character's name if a play.)

- Were they believable? Did they seem realistic? Did their relationships with the other characters seem natural and appropriate? Were they simply standing there singing/playing? Did they stay in character throughout the play?
- How was the performer's vocal quality (volume, articulation, etc.)?
- Did their gestures and body movement convey and stay true to the character appropriately?
- Were they engaging and interesting to watch? Why? How?
- Were the movement choices natural, justified, and appropriate to the character/role?

Paragraph 4 - The Design Elements: Lights and Sound

(Remember: describe, analyze, & judge EACH ELEMENT)

- Lights: Did they convey the proper mood? show emphasis? draw focus to the right spots? provide appropriate illumination?
- Sound: How did the sound effects and music contribute to the show's mood? If it was a musical, how was the orchestra? Were microphones used effectively, used at all?

Paragraph 5 - The Design Elements: Costumes and Makeup (mainly for a play/musical)

(Remember: describe, analyze, & judge EACH ELEMENT)

Are they true to the time period of the show?

Do they help add to the development of the characters, the plot, and the setting (time/place)?

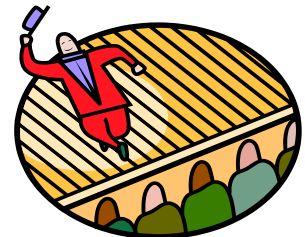
Paragraph 6 - The Design Elements: Set and Props (mainly for a play/musical)

(Remember: describe, analyze, & judge EACH ELEMENT)

Did they establish the correct mood for the play?

Did they help add to the development of the characters, the plot, and the setting (time/place)?

Were they well-made?



Paragraph 7 - The Reaction/The Conclusion

Was the audience attentive? Interested? What was your opinion of this performance as a whole?

1. Back up all your opinions with valid reasons.
2. Be objective, fair and sincere.
3. Evaluate the entire production.
4. Be constructive. Indicate good points along with those you felt needed improvement.
5. Enjoy the performance! Don't go to a show predisposed to be negative. **Celebrate Performing Arts!**