Live Performance Critique Assignment  
Deadlines: Semester 1/December 6, 2013  
Semester 2/May 23, 2014  

This assignment asks that you choose a live theatre performance at least once a semester to attend with the intention of analyzing it and then writing a typed review/evaluation of the performance. Additional critiques during the semester will be counted as extra credit. When you turn in your critique, you must include your proof of attendance.

How to Write a Critique for a Theatrical Performance  

A critique is an evaluation of a performance of a show. It should contain five paragraphs.

1. **Paragraph 1—The Basics**  
   Include the answers to the five W’s:  
   - Who (the playwright, directors, and actors)  
   - What (the title of the play)  
   - Where (the name of the school or theater)  
   - When (when did you see it?)  
   - Why (In a few sentences, state the basic theme of the show)

2. **Paragraph 2—The Plot**  
   Briefly summarize the plot of the show:  
   - How well did the story work?  
   - Was it interesting, entertaining?

3. **Paragraph 3—The Acting**  
   Reactions to the performers playing the characters in the play:  
   - Use their real names and character names  
   - Were they believable?  
   - How was their volume and articulation?  
   - Did their gestures and body movement stay true to the character?

4. **Paragraph 4—The Design**  
   Set:  
   * Did it establish a definite mood and correct time period for the play?  
   Lights:  
   * Did they convey appropriate mood, emphasis, and brightness?  
   Costumes and Makeup:  
   * Were they true to the period of the show and to the characters?  
   Sound:  
   * How did the sound effects and music contribute to the show’s mood?  
   * If this performance was a musical, what is your opinion of the orchestra’s performance?

5. **Paragraph 5—The Reaction**  
   What is the play’s effect on the audience?  
   - What was your opinion of the show as a whole?  
   - A judgment or recommendation – would you recommend others see this play?

6. **Remember to:**  
   - Back up all your opinions with valid reasons.  
   - Be objective, fair, and sincere.  
   - Evaluate the entire production.  
   - Be constructive. Indicate good points along with those you felt needed improvement.  
   - Enjoy the show—don’t go to be overly critical.