**WRITING A REVIEW**

**Choose which type of review you are going to write. Follow the directions for that type of review. Your review is due on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**The best reviews will be sent to the school newspaper and they will choose some to print in the next edition.**

1. **RESTAURANT REVIEW**

Choose the [restaurant](http://www.ehow.com/how_2054669_write-restaurant-review.html) you want to review.

Dine at the restaurant. Make notes about the menu, cleanliness, décor, atmosphere, other patrons, staff including host/waiters/kitchen staff, location, parking, restrooms, cuisine, presentation and creativity.

Write the review as soon as possible after dining. Use detail when describing the restaurant.

**TO WRITE: THIS MUST BE IN PARAGRAPH FORM!**

**Introduce us to the restaurant by telling us the name/address/hours open, the overall type of cuisine. Include a brief description of the outside and inside—what is the first impression one would get from the outside and what is the décor/atmosphere like on the inside. Next, discuss the staff and typical patrons who might enjoy this restaurant. Then describe the food, taste, how it is served and presentation.** (You know what you tasted, so remember it. Was it crispy? Was it soft on the inside? Did it have a sweet aftertaste? Describe it in detail—use descriptive words and phrases don’t just tell us you ate a burger.)

**Conclude with your recommendation and a rating (1 to 5 stars with 5 being the best).** (Did you like this, why/why not? Would you recommend it to someone else? Why/why not?)

1. **MOVIE REVIEW**

Choose the [movi](http://www.ehow.com/how_2054669_write-restaurant-review.html)e you want to review. You may review a new movie still in theatres OR a movie that has been released to DVD. The movie you choose MUST be appropriate. Stick with PG-13 or below unless you discuss it with me beforehand.

Watch the movie. Make notes about the main characters & actors that play them, the plot, the message or theme of the movie (if any), the special effects (if any), the music, the costumes, etc.

Write the review as soon as possible after watching the movie. Use detail when describing the movie.

**TO WRITE: THIS MUST BE IN PARAGRAPH FORM!**

**Introduce us to the movie by telling us the film’s name, rating, and the genre it fits into** (action, adventure, comedy, crime, drama, epics/historical, horror, musicals, science fiction, war, or westerns). **Include a brief description of the plot (“this is a story about…) and major actors. Next, discuss the film BUT DON’T RUIN IT for people who have not seen the film.** (Judge the story. What is the theme or the moral of the story? Are the character’s actions justified, and are their motives believable? Does the plot make sense? Is the story line logical? Rate the actors. Are they good? Do you believe them as the character they portray? Do they meet the expectations of the plot and other story elements?) **Then describe the technical elements.** (How do the filming, editing, lighting, sound, costumes, special effects, etc. support or detract from the film? Is music appropriate and effective to set the mood?)

**Conclude with your recommendation** (Give the “audience demographic” or who would like this movie and your opinion of the movie as a whole (include details you thought were interesting or awful) **and rating (thumbs down, thumbs up, or 2 thumbs up)** (Did you like this, why/why not? Would you recommend it to someone else? Why/why not?)

1. **BOOK REVIEW**

Choose the book you want to review. It must be a novel. You may review a new book or one you have read in the past. You may not review a simple children’s book but, Young Adult novels are acceptable. The content MUST be appropriate.

Read the book. Make notes about the main characters, the plot, the setting, the message or theme of the novel, etc.

Write the review as soon as possible after reading the novel. Use detail when describing the novel.

**TO WRITE: THIS MUST BE IN PARAGRAPH FORM!**

**Introduce us to the book by telling us the title, author, year written, and genre it fits into** (non-fiction, fiction which includes: action/adventure, crime, detective, romance, horror, science fiction, western, inspirational, mystery). **Maybe include why you read this book. Next, describe the setting** (atmosphere, scenic effects, descriptions) **and the style of writing** (humor, wit, satire, allegory, parody, motif, symbolism, imagery, pacing, etc.) **Then discuss some specifics about the novel BUT DON’T RUIN IT for people who have not read the book. Include a description of the plot (“this is a story about…).** (Judge the story. What is the theme or the moral of the story? Are the character’s actions justified? Are their motives believable? Does the plot make sense? Is the story line logical?)

**Conclude with your recommendation** Give the “audience demographic” or who would like this book and your opinion of the book as a whole (include details you thought were interesting or awful and how the book affected you) **and rating (thumbs down, thumbs up, or 2 thumbs up)** (Did you like this, why/why not? Would you recommend it to someone else? Why/why not?)

**TIPS for writing any review:**

**Write about the Interesting and Funny.** Was there a fire in the kitchen? Were the men sitting one table over squabbling over their golf game? Was there a funny scene or an interesting quote that you remember from the movie or book? These things are all part of the experience and would make others interested in what you write. If it really stood out in your memory, write about it.

**Don’t Hide Your Personality.** Make this interesting and fun. And make sure we can see a little bit of who you are in the review. Do NOT, however, be inappropriate

**Re-Read Your Review.** After you’ve finished, take a moment to look back. Check for typos that make you look silly. Try to read it from the point of view of a stranger: would you be captivated by what you’re reading? Would you find it useful? Would you give yourself an A? Tweak as necessary.

**Sample Review Format**

**Name:**

**Location:**

**Reservations:**

**Price range:**

**Hours:**

**Parking:**

**Cuisine:**

**The Review:**

**(include information about the food—DESCRIBE IT!, the atmosphere/decor, the wait staff, the time it takes to be seated, the**

**MOVIE REVIEW WORKSHEET**

1. Who are the 5 most important characters in the film? Also list the names 5 of the actors playing these characters.
2. What is this story about? Be very detailed!
3. What group of people would like this movie (demographics)?
4. Did you like this movie? Why or why not?
5. What rating would you give this movie?
6. What spoilers might ruin the movie for viewers if you told them about it?
7. All movies teach a lesson (theme/moral). What did you learn from this one?
8. What title would you give your review (and can you think of a pun that might work for it)?

**PARAGRAPH #1**: Introduce the movie by stating that you’ve just seen this movie and would like to give an opinion about it. Mention a couple of details that might help the reader understand what type of movie you are talking about.

**PARAGRAPH #2**: Summarize the plot (story). Where and when did it take place? Who are the main characters? What is the story about? Remember, do NOT include spoilers and do not tell how the story ends!

**PARAGRAPH #3**: Talk about the actors/actresses and discuss who did a good job and who didn’t.

**PARAGRAPH #4**: Talk about what you liked about the movie and what you didn’t like. Be sure to include specific details and scenes.

**PARAGRAPH #5**: What lessons did you learn from this story (theme/moral)? What do you think others will learn from it?

**PARAGRAPH #6**: What group of people would like this movie? Who would you recommend it to? Who would you not recommend it to? What is your final word on the film: Is it good or bad?

**RATING SYSTEM**: “thumbs up” or “thumbs down.”

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| [**Main Film Genres**](http://www.filmsite.org/genres.html#genres) | [**Film Sub-Genres**](http://www.filmsite.org/subgenres.html) | [**Other Major Film Categories**](http://www.filmsite.org/genres2.html)  |
| http://www.filmsite.org/images/actionfilms.gif | [Action Films](http://www.filmsite.org/actionfilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/biopics.gif | [Biographical Films (or "Biopics")](http://www.filmsite.org/biopics.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/animatedfilms.gif | [Animated Films](http://www.filmsite.org/animatedfilms.html) |
| http://www.filmsite.org/images/adventurefilms.gif | [Adventure Films](http://www.filmsite.org/adventurefilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/chickflicks.jpg | ['Chick' Flicks](http://www.filmsite.org/chickflicks.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/ukfilms.gif | [British (UK Films)](http://www.filmsite.org/ukfilms.html) |
| http://www.filmsite.org/images/comedyfilms.gif | [Comedy Films](http://www.filmsite.org/comedyfilms.html) | [http://www.filmsite.org/images/detectivefilms.gifhttp://www.filmsite.org/images/mysteryfilms.gif](http://www.filmsite.org/mysteryfilms.html) | [Detective & Mystery Films](http://www.filmsite.org/mysteryfilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/childrens.gif | [Childrens - Kids - Family-Oriented Films](http://www.filmsite.org/childrensfilms.html) |
| http://www.filmsite.org/images/crimefilms.gif | [Crime & Gangster Films](http://www.filmsite.org/crimefilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/disasterfilms.gif | [Disaster Films](http://www.filmsite.org/disasterfilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/classicsfilms.gif | [Classic Films](http://www.filmsite.org/classicsfilms.html) |
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| http://www.filmsite.org/images/epicsfilms.gif | [Epics/Historical Films](http://www.filmsite.org/epicsfilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/filmnoir.gif | [Film Noir](http://www.filmsite.org/filmnoir.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/documentary.gif | [Documentary Films](http://www.filmsite.org/docfilms.html) |
| http://www.filmsite.org/images/horrorfilms.gif | [Horror Films](http://www.filmsite.org/horrorfilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/guyfilms.jpg | [Guy Films](http://www.filmsite.org/guy-movies.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/serialfilms.gif | [Serial Films](http://www.filmsite.org/serialfilms.html) |
| http://www.filmsite.org/images/MUS05.GIF | [Musicals (Dance) Films](http://www.filmsite.org/musicalfilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/melodramafilms.gif | [Melodramas, Women's or "Weeper" Films](http://www.filmsite.org/melodramafilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/sexualfilms.gif | [Sexual - Erotic Films](http://www.filmsite.org/sexualfilms.html) |
| http://www.filmsite.org/images/sci-fifilms.gif | [Science Fiction Films](http://www.filmsite.org/sci-fifilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/roadicon_sm.jpg | [Road Films](http://www.filmsite.org/roadfilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/silentfilms.gif | [Silent Films](http://www.filmsite.org/silentfilms.html) |
| http://www.filmsite.org/images/warfilms.gif | [War (Anti-War) Films](http://www.filmsite.org/warfilms.html) | http://www.filmsite.org/images/romancefilms.gif | [Romance Films](http://www.filmsite.org/romancefilms.html) |   |   |
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|  | [http://www.filmsite.org/images/thrillerfilms.gifhttp://www.filmsite.org/images/suspensefilms.gif](http://www.filmsite.org/thrillerfilms.html) | [Thriller-Suspense Films](http://www.filmsite.org/thrillerfilms.html) |   |   |

Table taken from the American Movie Classics (AMC) website.