

Review guidelines

Warm-up

Think of a film you have watched recently. The stronger opinion you have about it, the better. It won't matter whether you loved or loathed – just make sure you remember it fairly well.

- Take a minute to jot down a few notes about this film.
- What was your opinion of it? Why? What details do you remember best?

Find somebody to tell you about this film. You have two minutes to do the following, in any order.

- Tell your listener about what happens in the film, who the characters are and what kind of setting there is.
- Express your opinion of the film. Should your listener see it? Why or why not?
- Support your opinion: What details about the film make it one you would recommend – or not?

Debrief.

- How easy or hard was this task?
- What aspects were trickiest?
- How many different aspects of filmmaking did you mention?
- Did you talk about acting? The music? The costumes? The camera work?
- Overall, how convincing were you?

Go!

Watch the film: from the beginning to the end and in several sittings.

- Take notes of both major and minor events and characters. Never trust your memory, only.
- Carry out a thorough research. Watching the movie isn't enough, research is equally important.
- Look for details such as the name of the filmmaker and his/her motivation to make that film or documentary work, locations, plot, characterization, historic events that served as an inspiration for the movie (if applicable).

Never start working on the review if you aren't sure you understand the film.

Draft an outline. It will help you to write your review concisely and cohesively.

- Include examples for claims you make about the movie.
- If the plot has holes, prove it with relevant examples.
- If the character is poorly developed or acting is no good, give examples, too.
- Support your comments on locations, camera shots, music, etc. with solid evidence.

If you want the reader to agree with you, it's essential to back up your claims with evidence.

You don't want to make it seem like you're praising or criticizing the movie without any reason whatsoever.

Consider and comment on a movie's originality and quality of scenes. Explain how the movie stands out or whether it just uses the same approach that worked for previous works in the industry

Adapted for the CLIL classroom by the GRIT team in 2020

Source: <https://edusson.com/blog/how-to-write-movie-review>