

# Writing a review

What kinds of things do we look at when reviewing a work? What do we look for in each of them?

- I. Brief summary of the work, including its overall purpose or perspective. This includes the title of the work, the author, director or producer, as appropriate.
- II. Critical assessment of the content. This includes reaction to the work, assessment of what is noteworthy, whether or not it was effective,
  1. Characters. How are the characters portrayed? Does it fit with what you know about the work? Are the actors believable? Do they overplay the roles?
  2. Costumes. Are the characters dressed in appropriate attire? Does the clothing seem natural, i.e. something they would really wear?
  3. Setting. Does the setting work? Sometimes less setting is better, forcing the audience to focus more on the actors rather than the stage and props. If there is an extensive background setting and stage props, do they serve their purpose? Does it look natural? Is anything distracting?
  4. Exposition. Do we get enough background information to make us care about the characters and the story? Are we thrown into the middle of a story with no warning? Is the exposition natural, or does it seem forced?
  5. Conflict. Is the conflict believable? Does it hold our interest, or is it shallow and vague? Do the characters play into the conflict well?
- III. Suggestion whether the audience will appreciate the work or not. Should the audience spend time on it? Is there anything worthwhile? Despite any problems, are there any redeeming qualities?