

## **PLAY RESPONSE**

*After viewing one of the required plays, write a careful critique of the direction based on the knowledge you have from this class and your educated personal opinions.*

Describe and evaluate the directing in the production.

- 1. Has the director helped the actors perform convincingly? How?**
- 2. Do the performers play together as an ensemble? How?**
- 3. Is it easy to see and hear what is going on? Why or Why not?**
- 4. Are entrances and exits smooth? Scene changes? Why or Why not?**
- 5. Is the stage space used well? How? Are some areas ignored?**
- 6. Does the pace and rhythm seem right? Does it drag or move swiftly?**
- 7. Was the direction conventional or unconventional? How?**
- 8. Did the direction convey a unified concept? How? What was the concept or approach?**

*As you write, make sure to answer all parts of all of the questions and to use specific examples to make your points. Think about all the elements of directing – did the director use them - composition, rhythm, picturization, and movement in his/her direction?*

## Play Response Writing Rubric

### Organization:

Essay is easy to read due to clear organization of subtopics	5
Organization is hard to follow	0

### Content:

Essay completely answers assignment questions	10
Essay somewhat answers assignment questions; some information is missing	7
Too much information distracts the focus of the paper	5
Essay does not answer any assignment questions	0

Examples are specific and concrete, support thesis	10
Examples are nonspecific and/or abstract, do not all support thesis	5
Examples are vague or distracting, do not support thesis at all	0

Introduction and conclusion are interesting and balanced	10
Introduction or conclusion is dull, or one is stronger than the other	5
Both introduction and conclusion are dull or are both weak or missing	0

### Style and Mechanics:

Essay consistently uses proper punctuation, grammar and spelling	10
Essay contains fewer than 4 errors in punctuation, grammar and spelling	7
Essay contains 4 or more errors in punctuation grammar and spelling	5

Essay is written in appropriate point of view.	5
Point of view is inappropriate for essay.	0

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_ (50)

C. Describe and evaluate the set design of the production.

1. Is the scenery helpful to the play? To the performers?
2. Is it a hindrance? Too distracting? Too overbearing?
3. Does it contribute to the mood? Is it appropriate for the style of the production?
4. Is there a symbolic element in the scenery? In the shapes or colors?
5. Is the design aesthetically pleasing in itself?

D. Describe and analyze the lighting of the production?

1. Is the lighting realistic or nonrealistic?
2. Does it help create mood?
3. Are all actors properly lit? Can we see their faces?
4. How does the lighting use color and direction (where does it come from: below, above, behind, etc.)?
5. Are light changes made slowly or quickly? Is this right for the play?

E. Describe and analyze the costumes for the play.


1. Are the costumes right for the play? In period and style? For the theme of the play?
2. Are they right for individual characters, in personality, station in life, occupation, etc.?
3. Is the design good? The colors? Why or why not?
4. Are there differences between costumes for major and minor characters? Between one faction in the play and another?

F. Describe and analyze the playscript--characters, plot and structure, or content and theme, as in the play reading critique--and explain how the production realized that element of the written text in its production.

A. Describe and evaluate the acting in the production.

1. Choose the performers you liked best--citing illustrations from the production. Note things they did well--gestures, moments, bits, etc.--and explain why you think they were good.
2. How was the performer's voice, movement, interpretation of the role?
3. Separate the performer from the role. Can you dislike a character but admire the performance?
4. How did the performers relate to each other? Did they listen and respond naturally, or did they look like they were "acting?"

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 Last revision date for this page: --- Saturday, September 25, 2004.

[Things your critique might consider](#)

The critique should provide its reader with some of the following information and focus on some of the following questions:

- Was the direction conventional or unconventional?
- Did the direction convey a unified concept? What was the concept or approach?
- Were the actors convincing in their roles? Did you believe them? Did they move you? Evaluate actors individually as to what you liked or did not like about their performance. Specifically what was it about the actor's performance that made you feel this way?
- What were the costumes, sets and lights like? Did they help or hinder the overall production? How did they relate to the overall vision or message of the production?
- Was the theatrical space well used by the actors, director, and designers?
- What was the audience like? What were the age ranges, ethnicities/races, and socio-economic groups represented? Did they seem to enjoy the show or did they seem bored? How could you sense this? How many people were in the audience?
- What did it mean to present the particular work you saw before the audience present?
- How did the performance relate to society, the individual, art, theatre or entertainment?
- Did the performance surprise you any anyway? Did something happen on stage that you had never seen before or felt like you were seeing for the first time because it was being presented on stage expressly for your entertainment?
- The tone of your critique can be observant, informed, sensitive, or demanding. They should always be well written.