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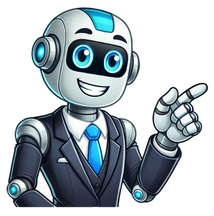

As long as there have been films, there have been film critics. Starting with the early days of cinema, where reviews appeared in newspapers and magazines as brief, descriptive pieces, as filmmaking evolved as an art form, so did the role of the critic. James Agee, André Bazin, and Pauline Kael shaped the discourse around cinema, and today, famous film critics like the iconic Roger Ebert, The New York Times's A.O. Scott, and The New York Times's Manohla Dargis continue to leave an indelible mark on the world of cinema. With the rise of the internet, film criticism now encompasses a wide range of voices and perspectives from around the globe. Sites like Letterboxd make it possible for anyone to write short-form reviews on film. Even stars like The Bear's Ayo Edebiri have accounts and share opinions on the latest box-office hits. How to Write a Movie Review Today, contemporary YouTube and TikTok critics such as Red Letter Media, deepfocuslens, and DoMo Draper don't just write film reviews, they shoot videos and skits. Through their creative formats, they offer refreshing and unique perspectives while building communities of diehard film and television enthusiasts. Whether you choose to write reviews for your own blog, other websites, or social media channels, by learning how to write a movie review, any aspiring filmmaker can start to watch films intentionally. @domodraperr Replying to @xsindeviltriggerx I'll get right on that, Sir! #comments #movies #film #satire #fyp #mulan #disney ♬ I'll Make a Man Out of You (feat. Black Gryph0n) – Cover – Samuel Kim TikTok film critic "DoMo Draper" provides commentary on new and old films, often calling out racism, social injustice, misogyny, and prejudice. While there's no perfect approach to writing a review, there are best practices that every aspiring reviewer should consider. Here are ten tips on writing a compelling piece. 1. Watch the film at least once. For new reviewers, it's impossible to capture everything after one viewing. Watching the film first, then watching to take notes, is an easy way to improve the quality of your final review. This will also make it easy to recall in-the-moment thoughts and reactions. Take a review by Christian Blauvelt of Charlie Chaplin's silent film The Circus, for example. Since the film does not have sound, properly critiquing the film requires close attention. Viewers have to pay attention to the various nuances in Chaplin's performance, follow the story, and take in the cinematography. Regarding The Circus, Blauvelt writes, "The film lacks a conventional plot, but is rather a pearl necklace of strung-together episodes." The statement isn't a criticism, but a keen observation likely gleaned from more than one viewing. So while every film reviewer has their own approach, many choose to watch a film more than once to deliver the best possible review. Image The Criterion Collection. 2. Express your opinions and support your criticism. Professional reviewers do not shy away from sharing whether they thought a movie was good, bad, or indifferent. In a review for the film Mother!, reviewer Candice Frederick describes the film as "uncomfortable," and "controversial," helping viewers understand the tone of the movie. While Frederick seemed to enjoy the film, her honesty about how it would make audiences feel was vital in writing the review. Be sure to back up these thoughts with specifics–a disappointing performance, beautiful cinematography, difficult material that leaves you thinking, and so on. Professional reviewers should express why and how they came to their criticism. 3. Consider your audience. Are you writing for a fan site or a news outlet? Who will read your pieces, and what are their interests? Knowing who your readers are and where the review will be published can help you decide what elements of the movie to highlight. For example, take these two very different reviews for the film 'Synecdoche, New York'. The first review was written by Alonso Duralde for The Today Show, and clocks in at around 500 words. The film focuses on the bullet points: characters, plot, and a concise review. The second review is over 3,000 words and published on the Critical Critics blog. This review goes into massive depth (and yes, includes spoilers) about the film, providing an incredible amount of analysis. The first review is tailored for the casual filmgoer, while the second is for cinephiles. Each review serves a different purpose. It's also a good idea to adjust your writing style to fit the target audience. For example, Alonso Duralde is a talented film reviewer and likely wrote the review to fit the tone of The Today Show site. Image via Director's Library. 4. Talk about the acting. When reviewing a film, it's important to take space to discuss the performances. Does the film feature a seasoned actor in a new kind of role or a brilliant performance from a rising star? How was the acting? In a review by Brett Milam for the award-winning film Whiplash, he goes into rich detail about performances by both breakthrough actor Miles Teller and seasoned professional JK Simmons. Regarding Teller, Milam writes, "This is a performance. This is art," and about Simmons, "I found him fascinating to just look at." Those are just small examples of the analysis he provides regarding their acting. As the film mostly focuses on the relationship between their two characters, Miles as the protagonist and JK as the antagonist, the review of the performances lends well to the plot of the film: student and teacher going head to head in an intense and determined showdown. Feedback about how well the actors handled the script, the dynamics in an ensemble, and so much more can help describe how the actors did in any given film. 5. Call out directors, cinematographers, and special effects. Reviews that include highlights or missteps of directors, cinematographers, and costume designers can help provide support to your critiques. By providing specific examples of what worked, what surprised you, and what fell short of expectations, reviewers can write a well-thought-out review that goes beyond whether or not you liked it. In a review for A Wrinkle in Time, Monique Jones artfully crafts a piece that diplomatically cites the missteps of the film. From analyzing the quality of the CGI to the camera techniques to inconsistencies in the rules of the fantasy universe, Jones fairly offers a critique that guides the filmmakers and crew on future endeavors. To write this type of review, it helps to have some knowledge of the filmmaking process so you can properly assess the screenwriting, cinematography, special effects, acting, and more. Image via Disney. 6. No spoilers! The point of writing a movie review is to get people interested in seeing a movie. That's why it's absolutely best practice to not reveal spoilers in a film review. Film reviewer Robert Daniels approaches this creatively. In his review of Annihilation, he provides commentary on what would be considered spoilers. However, he places that part of the review at the bottom of the article under a bold header/image that warns the reader he's about to spoil the film. For reviewers who want to dissect the entire film, this is a good way to both tease the film for anyone who hasn't seen it and cater to people who want to know what the ending is. Remember: the goal of any film review is to discuss the plot without revealing any twists or the ending of the film. 7. Study the professionals. As with all writing endeavors, the more you read, the better. However, with the modern landscape of film reviewing, which can go beyond writing and extend to content creation for social media platforms, there are a ton of reviewers to take notes from. First, determine what kind of reviewer you want to be, and what kind of medium you plan to deliver your reviews on. If you plan to post to Medium, for example, studying the reviewers already established on the site can be a great starting point. Then, read film reviews for some of your favorite films. Determine which style of review you like and don't like. Question why, and use your critical eye to consider why one reviewer has a hundred thousand followers and another only has two. If you're looking to be featured on a website or a magazine, read the publications where you'd like your writing to appear as a template for your reviews, and don't forget to read the submission guidelines. A few examples of film review professionals include Rotten Tomatoes, Roger Ebert, and Film Comment. 8. Reread, rewrite, and edit. While writing film critique is based on opinion, and follows the style of the reviewer, it's still important to edit work. Writers should check for spelling, grammar, and readability. No matter how good a writer's opinions are, they will not be taken seriously if the director's name isn't spelled correctly. Tools such as Grammarly and Hemingway Editor can be great for correcting and finding areas that need improvement. 9. Find your voice. The best reviewers have a distinct personality that comes across in their writing. Los Angeles Times film reviewer Carlos Aguilar wrote an impassioned piece about the film Beatriz at Dinner, going into a lot of detail about his experiences working in the film industry and his Mexican heritage. By sharing anecdotes about casual racism he's experienced and connecting it to the film's protagonist, and what she goes through, the review feels personal and relatable. "If at a film festival – to which I've gotten access to because I'm a published writer – in a progressive city like Los Angeles, I must keep my guard up when people question my right to be there, then how are the voiceless supposed to feel safe, respected, or hopeful?" Aguilar writes. For new reviewers, developing this type of unique voice does not happen overnight, so take every opportunity to write as an opportunity to develop your style. Image via BBC. 10. Know your taste. As a film reviewer, it can be helpful to identify your taste in film. By knowing specific preferences, strengths, and biases, reviewers can offer nuanced critiques that resonate with audiences and provide valuable guidance on which films they might enjoy. Additionally, it helps to maintain credibility and integrity as a reviewer by ensuring that assessments are authentic and reflective of personal cinematic sensibilities. Try to explore various genres, directors, and themes to understand what resonates emotionally, intellectually, and aesthetically. Pay attention to the types of stories that engage you, which can help define your preferences. Learn More About Filmmaking at NYFA Film students with writing experience actually make great reviewers, as many of them are required to study a range of topics relating to film that can include cinematography, screenwriting, producing, and much more. Ready to build even more skills in filmmaking? Request more information about New York Film Academy's filmmaking programs and workshops today! If struggling to write a research paper, you can contact our affordable movie review writing service, and our expert are available to help. How to Write a Movie Review essay: Target AreasFor one to learn how to write a movie review, there are a few areas to target. As the explanation of movie review assignment show, the movie review writing focuses on two primary aspects: content and form elements. ContentThe content of a movie mainly entails its plot, setting, and characters. Identifying their relationships is critical in providing the context of the film. Formal elementsFormal elements include aesthetic elements that contribute to turning a story into a movie. They include the following:Lighting that helps convey or express certain effectsSound that assists signify moments in scenes Cinematography resulting from camera shots and movements Editing helps achieve a specific flow and effectSets, costumes, and props meant to make the film relatable and believable relative to the setting and contentThe analysis of the formal elements should consider how they align with the film's content to achieve a certain objective.What makes Movie Review Assignments UniqueStudents hardly have previous experience writing movie reviews for the general public. Even if they do not know how to write a movie review, one does not need a sophisticated film theorist's vocabulary to write a serious, engaging, informative, or useful movie review. You need to have a clear claim that you can support with evidence. You also need a good sense of audience to express your argument.Film reviews differ from conventional academic writing. Movie review writing tips emphasize that film review assignments require you to share your opinion without considering multiple possible objections and alternative viewpoints. Some students enjoy writing movie reviews because they ease the pressure to integrate external research.However, the difficulty in writing a film review lies in striking the right tone, which requires you to find the right voice and choose the right diction. The tone is particularly hard to master.General Movie Writing Guide A movie review template helps orient one to the task. Our essay writing service presents a general guideline on how to write a movie review. The guide distils writing strategies common in successful film reviews. It flows as follows:The leadYour movie review should begin with your anecdote. This can be in the form of a striking statement, a piece of trivia, a joke, a quote, a broad social context, a play on the movie's title, a brief piece of dialogue, a confession, a comment on the state of the film industry, a key moment in the film, a film comparison, a director's reputation, or a direct address to a specific audience. The choice is yours. The key is to provide a relevant and relatable start.The plot synopsisIn this section, you should describe the setting, when and where the action takes place. In doing so, introduce the main characters and actors' names. Identify the primary conflict in the story and highlight a key event.You should also provide a historical background and hint at the general plot structure. Complete this section by comparing and contrasting the type of plot in the selected movie to other films.The analysisThis section requires you to offer thoughts on the quality of the performance. This forms the backbone of how to write a movie review. Your attention would be on identifying the standout performer, the miscast, and describing your emotional responses or the audience responses around you.In addition, you should place the film within its genre. This would require you to show whether it is a documentary, blockbuster, comedy, fantasy, romance, crime, horror, indie, animation, or suspense.You should also defend or question the choices that the director made in the film. Moreover, cover specific things that irritated or pleased you in the film. For instance, talk about camerawork, lighting, dialogue, editing, costume, makeup, and pacing.Lastly, identify the central theme in the film and share your opinions about the movie.The conclusionOn how to conclude a movie review, you should circle back to your lead, complicate it, and end on a philosophical note. You can challenge your reader or ask a rhetorical question in this section. You can also revise your initial opinion or ponder the director's future.In addition, you can highlight how you felt after watching the film. It is also recommendable to hammer your final thoughts by highlighting the pleasures and possibilities of good cinema. Ultimately, conclude the section with a meaningful quote.Points to consider when writing a movie reviewIn writing a movie review, you should deal as little as possible with the plot. Do not diverge whether there was a surprise ending or plot twist.Just offer enough about the plot to arouse the reader's interest and prove your opinion of the movie.Note the human emotions that the movie appeals to.Identify whether the film director had a specific purpose and whether the film relates to the group that the director intended.Explain if the dialogue is realistic or too simplistic.Readers would be keen on the quality of the cinematography and sound. Indicate whether the movie uses any interesting special effects. If the film is excessively violent, that should be clear in the film.Steps to follow in writing a movie reviewKnowing how to write a movie review reflects in the steps that one takes. We recommend you follow these steps:The goal is to know what the movie is about when watching for the first time. You should identify the primary theme, emerging patterns, the setting, and the main characters.Rewatch the film while taking notes. Identify significant points in the movie.Assess how the content and form materials interact. Do they suit? Are they unfamiliar? Is their merging perplexing? Do they convey a certain feeling?Using the guideline above, draft your movie review including the following sectionsIntroductionA summary of the movieBody section with paragraphs evaluating the filmConclusion showing your general reactionAcknowledge materials used to write the movie review.You should read the written review to eliminate grammatical errors and stylistic issues before submission.In Wrapping UpWriting a movie review is not a challenging exercise if you execute the task effectively. We believe that this article helps learn how to write a movie review. Ensure your writing is clear because you are writing for a reader who has not seen the film.If you follow the right steps and the guidelines in this article, you will ace your assignment. Our expert writers at ScholarlyWritings.com are ready to assist if you need help to write your movie review. We can help even if it is writing an outline only or a single section.Order a movie and rest assured of a professionally-crafted movie review essay. Contact our movie review writing service and await a successful result. Movie reviews and critiques follow roughly the same format as the book reviews and critiques. Outside of academia, movie reviews and critiques are very different. For example, film reviews inform prospective consumers by providing a timely evaluation of films currently on offer. Reviews include a brief plot synopsis while avoiding "spoilers," identify any stars associated with the project, indicate the conventions of genre and scale within which the film operates, and pronounce a clear assessment of the film. The review is directed at a general audience who has NOT seen the film and attempts to answer the question: is this film worth my time and money? (Source: Gregory Brophy, Associate Professor in the English Department) Film critiques are informed analyses and are enriched by multiple viewings. Film analysis isolates and examines FORMAL techniques and patterns within a film in order to clarify and deepen our understanding of the film's aesthetic and thematic concerns. Readers of film critique expect timely and relevant reflections on contemporary culture, but they're also informed by a deeper understanding of film history, technique, and criticism, knowledge that primes them to consider and critique the writer's position on the film and its connections to other aspects of culture and politics. (Source: Gregory Brophy, Associate Professor in the English Department) Once again, professors typically assign film reviews as opposed to critiques but sometimes they use both review and critique interchangeably. The above information applies to non-academic reviews so it is ideal to clarify what your professors are looking for specifically. In this sense, critical analysis can find its way into reviews, which are fundamentally important to your essay. The format should also follow the essay format, with an introduction and a thesis statement, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. The name of the movie or documentary should be mentioned in the introduction (as well as cited accurately in the bibliography). Briefly describe the plot of the movie. There are different ways to approach a film review, but the two most used in classes are either by relating the movie themes to course material or by focusing on specific scenes that shocked you. Usually, the professor will guide you and make it clear if they are looking for specific approaches. For example, in the course HIS 242: History of Animals: Prey, Predator and Partner, the professor provides a list of films to students to choose from and was very specific to relate the film themes to material learned in class. In HIS 214: United States, 1877-1945, the professor expected students to talk about what shocked them the most about the documentary watched. Focus on specific scenes or moments rather than describing the entire linear plot. You may wish to describe how the setting, the music, or the cinematography conveys the story. What were the directors and writers trying to achieve? Did they succeed? What was the intended audience or the message? If it's a historical movie, is it accurate? Remember, you are writing in the context of history, not as a film critic. What did you think the movie was going to be about? Did it meet your expectations? Were you disappointed when it wasn't what you were expecting? Did the story progress the way you wanted it to? Did you enjoy the ending? Would you recommend the movie? What score would you assign it on a scale of 1 to 10? These are just some ways to give you some ideas. The most important thing is that you reflect your thoughts candidly and clearly. Want to learn how to write a movie review? You're in the right place. Writing a movie review essay is a common college assignment. While cinema-loving students enjoy this task, others may find it tough. Remember, a film review is more than just retelling a movie's plot—it's evaluating it as an art form that reflects cultural and societal values. After you've written your draft, you can quickly proofread it using EduBirdie's plagiarism tool. What is a Movie Review? A movie review is a detailed analysis of a film or documentary. You need to research, analyze and present your opinion clearly and logically. The purpose is to inform and educate readers so they can decide whether or not to watch the movie. Film criticism has evolved from traditional newspapers to platforms like YouTube, Letterboxd and even TikTok. This evolution shows the importance of insightful film analysis and personal perspective in writing a good movie review. Knowing different styles and movie review formats used by contemporary film critics can help you develop your own voice and write great reviews. Writing a movie review is a great opportunity to develop your critical thinking, writing clarity and creativity. This guide will help you write the best movie review essay for your college assignment, with useful tips, structured outlines and clear movie review examples. Still struggling to start writing? Avoid being redundant in writing by focusing on relevant points that add value to your review rather than repeating information unnecessarily. EduBirdie's literature review writing service can help. How to Write a Movie Review Like a Professional Critic 1. Watch the Movie (More Than Once) Before you write a review, you must watch the movie at least twice. During viewing, focus critically not casually, note major plot points, character development and other elements like camera angles and special effects. Keep a notebook handy to jot down important observations that will be part of your movie critique and review. 2. Research Background Information After viewing, research background information to deepen your understanding. Look for: Movie genre Release date Lead actors Film director's previous work (for example, James Cameron's influence in the film industry) Historical or social context influencing the film Book adaptation (if applicable) 3. Draft Your Movie Review Outline Here's an outline to make your review a good review and well-structured. Here's a movie review format: Introduction Movie title — State the movie title so we know what you're reviewing. Release date — When was the movie released? Brief background — Genre or source material. Cast & Director — Who's in it and who directed it? Summary of the Story Line Main characters and key events — Summarize the plot without spoilers. Plot Analysis How the story unfolds — Structure and pacing. Creative Elements Cinematography — Visual style and camera work. Camera techniques — Angles and movements. Costumes and makeup — How they define characters and setting. Sound and lighting — Atmosphere and emotion. Special effects — Quality and impact. Personal Evaluation (with Examples) Actor performances — How well did they do? Dialogues and quotes — Memorable lines. Notable scenes — What stood out? Conclusion Overall opinion (no spoilers, no spoilers, no spoilers) — Summarize your review. 4. Analyze the Film Thoroughly Critically evaluate every part of the movie, note strengths, weaknesses and what's confusing. Re-watch specific scenes if needed. Your analysis should consider technical aspects like cinematography, editing and storytelling methods, including evaluating different plot points like exposition, rising action, dilemma, climax, falling action and resolution. This deeper understanding will help you master how to write a movie review. 5. Support Your Claims with Examples When making claims about the movie's quality always include a few examples. For instance if the dialogues seem unnatural mention a specific scene or conversation. Your statements become more persuasive when backed by evidence. Talk about the uniqueness or conventional aspects of the movie, especially in terms of acting performances. Even if it follows typical genre conventions or has a happy ending mention it honestly, explain what makes this movie stand out—or not. 7. Write Your Review (Engaging and Structured) Start your review with an engaging introduction that grabs the reader's attention immediately. When learning how to write a movie review keep the body paragraphs informative and logically structured. End with a strong conclusion that summarizes your key points and connects back to your introduction for a good ending. 8. Edit Your Final Draft After you've finished your first draft edit your text thoroughly. Check grammar, spelling and punctuation. This step is crucial for crafting an effective movie review that clearly conveys your personal opinion and own review perspective, helping you save time in revisions later. Use tools like EduBirdie's free word counter to make sure the essay meets your instructor's word-count requirements. Avoid unnecessary filler content. This careful movie review writing process will help you create a polished final review. Order you first paper and join EduBirdie club to receive discounts and updates. Try EduBirdie 4.8/5 Additional Tips for Writing a Great Movie Review Essay A movie review essay requires dedication and thoughtful analysis. Here are extra tips: Always watch the film at least twice for thorough understanding. Watching the movie multiple times helps you catch details and nuances you might miss on the first viewing. Adopt an analytical rather than casual viewing approach. Focus on how different elements like plot, acting, and cinematography work together instead of just enjoying the story. Take detailed notes during viewing. Writing down observations ensures you remember key points and examples to support your review. Manage your time well—don't wait until the last minute. Giving yourself enough time allows for thoughtful analysis and careful writing. Follow your professor's guidelines closely. Adhering to instructions ensures your review meets academic expectations and requirements. Use a structured outline to organize your writing. An outline helps keep your review clear, logical, and easy to follow. Draft the body first, then craft an engaging introduction and conclusion. Writing the main analysis first makes it easier to introduce and summarize your points effectively. Edit meticulously before submission. Careful proofreading improves clarity, fixes errors, and strengthens your overall review. Read also: How to write an editorial Essay: Useful Tips for Those Who Want To Perfect Their Skill Movie Review Essentials Every movie review includes these: Title and Stuff Put the title of the film, year, director and main actors at the top of your review so readers can tell what film you are talking about and get some context. Plot (Brief) Provide a concise summary of the main events without revealing spoilers. Assume readers haven't seen the film, so focus on outlining the story's key points clearly and succinctly to give them an overview without ruining the experience. Filmmaker Facts Share interesting facts about the filmmaker like their previous work, recurring themes or personal background relevant to the film. This gives insight into the director's style and intentions. Relevance to Course Explain how the film relates to your class topics or assignment themes. Talk about historical accuracy, cultural impact or if the film is based on a book adaptation. This shows the film's relevance in an academic context. Creative Elements Analyze the technical and artistic elements like cinematography, sound effects, costume design, lighting and special effects. How well do these elements support the narrative and mood and enhance the viewing experience. Actors Assess the quality and authenticity of the actors' performances. Do the actors fit their roles well and do their performances add meaning to the story? Suggest improvements or highlight standout performances. Common Mistakes to Avoid To impress your prof, don't: Focus on Irrelevant Details: Stay on topic – film itself, not historical context. Use First Person Excessively: Unless allowed, avoid "I think" or "I liked". No Research: Always do extra research beyond the film. No Evidence: Back up all opinions and critiques with examples. Going Off-topic: Keep all points film-related. No Structure: Always use an outline to organize your ideas. General Statements: Be specific – not "good movie" without examples. Insufficient Analysis: Provide meaningful insight and deep analysis not surface-level observations. Movie Review Examples (Updated for 2025) Consider these popular and relevant examples for your review: Avatar: The Way of Water (2022) – Analyze revolutionary visual effects and storytelling techniques. Barbie (2023) – Evaluate how social commentary is woven into mainstream comedy. Black Panther (2018) – Discuss its cultural significance and representation impact. Parasite (2019) – Examine its powerful class commentary and storytelling approach. M3GAN (2023) – Explore its depiction of AI and viral popularity on TikTok. The Matrix Resurrections (2021) – Consider modern takes on AI and identity. Get Out (2017) – Discuss how horror genre conventions reveal social critiques. Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022) – Critically assess its unique approach to storytelling. Titanic (1997) – Timeless classic suitable for discussing romance, tragedy, and filmmaking scale. Soul (2020) – Analyze profound themes about life and purpose portrayed through animation. Each film provides distinct angles for review, appealing to current student interests. Quick & Reliable Writing Help Writing a movie review essay can be fun once you know the rules. Follow the above and you'll write great reviews that will impress your profs. Still stuck or unsure about your movie review essay? EduBirdie's movie and book review writing service is here to help. Get expert support and submit a well-structured review that meets your requirements. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Typically 600-1200 words (2-4 pages). Always check your prof's guidelines. No, unless your prof allows them. If you include key plot points, always provide a spoiler warning. Every good movie review includes a brief summary, analysis of acting and creative elements (cinematography, sound), your evaluation with examples and a conclusion. Have you ever watched a film so captivating that your head starts buzzing from all the symbolism? Or, perhaps, you are filled with rage, thinking how did this even make it to the theater screens? Filmmaking is supposed to evoke emotions, whether good or bad, and there is no better way to let them out than in a movie critique. Writing a film review is no rocket science, but it takes careful preparation and in-depth research. So, buckle up, while we explain how to approach this topic and honor (or dishonor) cinematography in a proper way! JOIN OUR LEARNING HUB AI Essay Writer AI Detector Plagchecker Paraphraser Summarizer Citation Generator Writing a movie review can be an art project in itself; it requires much more than merely watching a film. You have to keep your eyes peeled for every single detail, character, and plot twist. It can be a bit disheartening starting on your work right away since it takes planning and preparation. Let's structure everything so that you don't get lost. How to Choose a Movie to Review If you weren't tasked with a specific piece to review, choosing "the right" movie is an important process (obviously). Your film of choice is the main basis of the overall text, so you have to have a serious approach. One surefire way to choose a movie is to look for those titles that spark your attention, your interest, or films that are particularly popular or have controversial opinions on them. This is necessary due to the fact that such cases provide you with enough thematic information to bounce off of and evaluate the film. Maybe the love/hate for the film wasn't deserved and you want to dig deeper into it? The choice is all yours. This could be a new release, a classic, or even an indie film that's generating buzz. The main point, just like in many other types of writing, is to engage the audience and provide an in-depth analysis. Taking Notes When Watching the Film The process of taking notes is what will lead your narrative further. It is almost impossible to keep every single thing on your mind, especially when watching longer films for two hours or more. Not only should you pay attention to the main plotline and jot down the main elements and observations as well as extra details, but also pose questions to elaborate further in the review. Pay attention to everything that is happening: storyline, character developments, camera work, the choice of music and costume. Everything that adds to the story in your opinion should be mentioned. However, don't waste time noting every frame, because it dilutes the main focus and can drive you away from forming a clear and concise thesis. You will thank yourself for preparing high-quality notes when starting with the actual text. If you need further help with what to look for, here are some ideas on what you can note while watching the movie: Watch the Film at Least Two Times You will spend a lot of time viewing the movie and you have to deal with it sooner rather than later. There is no way a person can grasp all of the details in a single sitting. After finishing your watch the first time, you will have a much clearer idea of what is happening and how the character dynamic is changing, and you will have more capabilities to reflect on them and get to the conclusion. Sometimes, your whole opinion of the movie can change after watching it the second time. This will make your film review much more nuanced and well-informed. Remember, that being thoroughly prepared is the only way to come up with a good opinion piece, so don't hesitate to 'waste' an additional hour or two on it. Writing a film review starts with a well-thought-out outline. This structure is key to making sure you don't miss any important parts of the film. Here's a TLDR for you, if you need it: Introduction Plot summary Analysis ✍ Evaluation Begin with the introduction, where you briefly mention the film's title, director, release year, and genre. Share your first impression to give readers a hint of what your review will be like. For example, mentioning the unique mix of horror and comedy in a film can make readers curious about how these elements work together. Next in your outline is the plot summary. This part is a balancing act; you want to give enough information to interest your reader without giving away the movie's surprises. Think of it as painting a picture in broad strokes – you show the journey without detailing every twist and turn. The analysis is where your reviews really take shape. Focus on parts that stood out to you, like exceptional performances, the director's distinct storytelling style, or the cinematography that brought the film's world to life. This is also where you discuss how the film affected you and why. Did it challenge your views, or did it fail to deliver its message? Finish your outline with a section for evaluation. Reflect on the film's strengths and weaknesses. Also, don't forget to consider its impact and any potential significance in its genre or the director's collection of work. This is where your perspective shines through and offers a final judgment that helps readers decide if the film is worth their time. Do you want the readers to go past the first paragraph? Create an engaging introduction. It's important to express a clear opinion right from the start, so readers know what to expect. For example, saying, "Director X's latest film is a visual feast that reimagines the genre," immediately reveals your positive perspective. Stating your opinion isn't the only way to go. Adding quotes from the director, critics, or cast can also grab attention and add depth to your review. A carefully chosen quote can shed light on the film's creative vision or stress a key theme. For instance, "Director K said, 'This film explores the depths of human emotion,' which sums up the cinematic experience." Your introduction should also give a hint of the unique angle or perspective you'll bring to your reviews. Whether you're examining the film's cultural significance, technical achievements, influence on the masses, or narrative structure, giving readers a glimpse of your approach will keep them engaged. Keep in mind that your goals should be striking a balance between being informative and captivating. You need to encourage readers to continue with your review, and there is no better way to do so than keeping your narrative "to the point" while also showing your enthusiasm for the film. Clearly, there is no perfect answer to the question of how to write a good movie review. However, apart from all of the things mentioned above, there are some tips left that we would like to share with you. If you feel like something is still missing or you want to polish your text even more, look through the following things. Don't Shy Away From Criticism A good review is more than just stating whether you liked the film; it explains why. You should really dive into your analysis, and provide thematic insights into plot inconsistencies or weak character development if you see them. The point of the review is not to sugarcoat everything, but to highlight even the messiest parts. For example, rather than simply writing that the storyline was confusing, explain which exact plot points were unclear. This way, the readers will understand your perspective much better. Add Specific Scene Examples Make your review more vivid by citing particular scenes that stood out. Trust us, your review will be much more relatable if you discuss a specific tense moment or a beautifully shot sequence rather than just saying "It was nerve-racking." These examples are proof of your critiques and help readers visualize your points. For example, you might mention a scene where the cinematography captured the emotional intensity and how much the film's visual storytelling influenced your overall impression. Think About Your Audience Adapt your review to fit your readers' interests and knowledge level. If you're writing for a general audience, focus on aspects that will resonate with a wide range of viewers, such as the plot and character arcs. For more avid fans of cinema culture, you can explore technical aspects like the director's style or the film's score on Rotten Tomatoes. Knowing your audience will help you find the right tone and level of detail for your review, even if it is just part of your high school assignment. Study the People Who Made the Film A film is a collaborative effort involving many talented individuals: actors, composers, set designers, editors, and so on. Research the backgrounds of key figures and their journey in film, because understanding their past filmmaking work and artistic styles can provide context for your review and answer some of the questions you or your readers might have. For example, knowing the director's preference for dark, psychological thrillers might explain some creative choices in the film. This research can improve your analysis and create a more complete view of the movie. Edit, Edit, Edit No text will succeed in its purpose without some retouching. Revisiting your work can help spot unclear ideas and sharpen your points if you missed anything. The final step is editing, so just fix grammatical mistakes and make your language more readable. There is not much to add; don't skip over proofreading and be your own strict editor. Highlight the Acting We talked about so many things in this guide but didn't give enough attention to what is seemingly the baseline of any movie – the acting. A film's success often hinges on its actors, and paying homage to standout performances can be a highlight in your review. Whether it's an actor's skill in portraying deep emotions or their interaction with fellow cast members, these details add to the appeal of the text. Don't Forget the Film's Pacing The rhythm of a film is a very interesting part of it all since it can significantly affect the viewing experience. You can elaborate on your thoughts about it in the review and discuss if the film kept a consistent pace or felt hurried in places, which was not pleasant. If you don't know where to start, you can mention if a gradual buildup led to a more rewarding ending or if the pace felt erratic and distracted you from the story's flow. Still, Provide a Balanced View Even if you consider the director your nemesis because you didn't like the film one bit, a fair review has to present a balanced critique. It is still important to recognize its strengths and good moments. You can even provide some advice where you can. Similarly, if you absolutely loved the film, highlighting any weaknesses or areas adds credibility to your review. This balance builds trust with your readers and shows that your review is well-thought-out and not rushed. Phew, we think that's it! Learning how to write a movie critique takes time and, most importantly, practice. It's okay if it doesn't come out great the first time, you just have to keep trying. Filmmaking strings the hearts of many, and your review can be a part of that conversation. Read through the tips above, take pride in your work, and always strive for the best! Opt out or Contact us anytime. See our Privacy Notice Follow us on Reddit for more insights and updates. Did you know that a lot of people around the world read reviews before watching a movie? Yes, it's true. A Statista survey was taken out last September in the United States which shows that 12 percent of moviegoers watch reviews before watching a movie while about 2 percent do it rarely. However, a good movie review is not just about to rate the movie but provides explicit information from different angles. Reviewers must understand how to write a movie review to write an effective one. What Is A Movie Review? A movie review is when someone gives their thoughts on a film, pointing out what's good and what's not so good, and how it all comes together. They look at things like the story, the acting, how it's directed, how it looks on camera, the dialogue, the themes, and if it's entertaining. These reviews can help you decide if a movie is worth watching. Why Students Have To Write A Movie Review? Learning how to write a movie review is not just for film reviewers or movie critics. Many Students might have to write film reviews for several reasons, such as: Writing a movie review can be part of student coursework. However, many top teaching universities indulge students in such writing to develop critical thinking, analytical, and writing skills among them. It helps them apply theoretical knowledge learned in classes to practical evaluation. Writing reviews might be part of journalism, media studies, or film club activities, allowing students to express their opinions, share insights, and discuss films. Analyzing a movie requires students to dissect various aspects of filmmaking, enhancing their ability to assess and critique artistic works critically. Having such skills could help them write an analytical essay well when needed. How To Write A Movie Review: Helpful Tips Whether you are a student, movie critic or movie lover, you have to follow some steps to write a movie review in a clear and persuasive way. Whether you are a beginner or an expert writer, these tips will help you write a compelling review that shines out from others. If you are going to review a movie, the first thing you need to do is pick a movie. It is recommended to choose a movie as per your interest. This could be a crime-based sci-fi, a psychopath movie, or even an adventure movie. To learn how to write a good movie review, you have to watch the movie with focus. Remember to pay close attention while watching and note down the essential elements like plot development, acting performance, cinematography, and other aspects. Note down the key elements, moments, observations, and impressions on a notebook, so you can't forget them. Later on, these notes will help you to start writing a film review. Now it's time to officially know how to start a movie review. Begin with writing an introduction for your film review. However, keep in mind that the introduction of movie analysis is different from other types of writing. It will include the title of the movie, the director's name, genre, and release date. After that a concise summary of the movies without revealing major spoilers. Now it's time to analyze the key elements from the movie. Evaluate the director's vision, screenplay, dialogues, and camera work. Furthermore, do your best to analyze the performances of the actors and assess whether the movie is well-edited or not. To make a deeper connection, talk about the themes, messages conveyed, and overall impression about what works well and what doesn't. By integrating these elements, you can better understand how to write a movie review. Well, opinion is the key to a successful movie analysis. A reader will more likely watch the movies when your personal opinion is in the review. Remember to express your thoughts and opinions clearly and persuasively. By any chance, if you don't have an idea about opinion writing, get help from opinion writing examples and add your opinion effectively in the movie analysis. Richard Linklater, a famous American movie director quoted that "It's hard to see a film one time and really "get it," and write fully and intelligently about it. That's a review. That's not film criticism." According to his statement it is clear that to understand how to write a movie review, you need to watch it at atleast 2 times to analyze every angle. Movie Review Template You must have noticed that writing a film review is far more different from other kinds of writing like essay writing, paper writing, or research writing. No need to puzzle, as we are here to help you out with a compelling, concise, and easy-to-attempt template for a movie review. All outlines are clearly mentioned in the above movie review template. You just need to pick a movie and fill the template with relevant information. Movie Review Examples Providing examples is the best technique to clear your doubts related to how to write a movie review. In the below section, we have compiled two short and easy examples based on the above-given template to make your concept clearer. Let's start with the example 1: Title of the Movie: Inception Director: Christopher Nolan Cast: Leonardo DiCaprio, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Elliot Page, Tom Hardy, Cillian Murphy Genre: Science Fiction, Thriller Release Date: July 16, 2010 Plot Summary "Inception" follows Dom Cobb (Leonardo DiCaprio), a skilled thief who steals secrets from within the subconscious during the dream state. He is offered a chance to have his criminal history erased in exchange for planting an idea into a target's subconscious. This "inception" mission takes Cobb and his team through a series of complex dream worlds. Analysis Of The Main Key Point Direction: The direction of Christopher Nolan in this movie is just mind-blowing and masterful. The way he combines complex storytelling with groundbreaking visual effects is just exceptional. His ability to add multiple layers of dreams into a coherent narrative is respectable. Script: There is a strong sense of character development and a gripping plot in the screenplay, which is intelligent and thought-provoking. Furthermore, the dialogues were very sharp and effective and contributed to the depth of the story. Acting: Every cast of the movie delivers a strong performance. Leonardo DiCaprio brings emotional depth to Cobb's troubled character. Besides this, Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Tom Hardy also stand out with their charismatic roles. Cinematography: The cinematography by Wally Pfister is visually stunning, especially the dream sequences that defy the laws of physics. As a result of the smooth integration of visual effects, the film takes on a surreal quality. Music and Sound: The sounds by Hans Zimmer enhance the suspense and complement the film's tone perfectly. Editing: The editing is tight and well-paced by professional editors to keep the viewer engaged through the film's complex structure. The transitions between different dream levels are smooth and effective. Themes and Messages "Inception" studies the themes of reality, dreams, and the subconscious. It questions the nature of reality and the power of the mind, which leaves the audience entertaining. Overall Impression "Inception" is a brilliant and innovative film that combines a convincing narrative with mind-blowing visuals and strong performances. It challenges the audience intellectually and, at the same time, provides an exciting cinematic experience. Highly recommended for fans of sci-fi and psychological thrillers. Rating 8.8 out of 10 or (★) Title of the Movie: Lady Bird Director: Greta Gerwig Cast: Saoirse Ronan, Laurie Metcalf, Timothée Chalamet, Lucas Hedges Genre: Drama, Comedy Release Date: November 3, 2017 Plot Summary Christine "Lady Bird" McPherson (Saoirse Ronan) is a senior in high school in Sacramento, California. The film shows her rough relationship with her mother (Laurie Metcalf), her desire to attend college on the East Coast, and her journey of self-discovery. Analysis Of The Main Key Point Direction: Greta Gerwig's direction is sensitive and fine which catches the spirit of youth with authenticity and warmth. Her personal touch is noticeable throughout the film. Script: The screenplay is very sharp and heartfelt throughout the film. Furthermore, the dialogue feels natural and genuine. The characters are well-rounded and relatable, making their experiences interlink with the audience. Acting: Saoirse Ronan's acting in the movie is as great as Lady Bird. She shows feelings of being both sensitive and brave. Laurie Metcalf plays the role of her mom who is both complicated and loving. Timothée Chalamet and Lucas Hedges play smaller roles but act well. Cinematography: Sam Levy's cinematography beautifully captures the suburban scenery of Sacramento. He uses close-up shots that focus on the characters, which helps to tell the story effectively. Music and Sound: The soundtrack includes songs that match the right time-period. Also, an original score by Jon Brion matches the film's nostalgic and emotional feel. Editing: The editing by Nick Houy is completely smooth and in narrative flow. Undoubtedly, he effectively balanced the film's comedic and dramatic elements. Themes and Messages "Lady