



# Essay writing

## Review essay planner

**A review essay evaluates the quality of a book, film, website etc to inform, entertain or persuade an audience.**

A review essay (or response) could look like this:

|              |                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| INTRODUCTION | Provides the context of the work.                                 | The writer should identify the type of work (a film, book, play, poem, website, etc) and its genre (eg fantasy, adventure, parody).                            | Begin with a tantalising first sentence.                                                                                                                |
|              |                                                                   | Identify details of composer, actors, publication details etc.                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                         |
|              |                                                                   | An early evaluation of the text to entice the reader to continue reading the review.                                                                           | Include evaluative language such as: <i>funny, enjoyed, of particular interest, suitable.</i>                                                           |
| BODY         | Provides a summary of the work. Can be one or more paragraphs.    | A selective summarised recount of the main event(s), characters and features of the work.                                                                      | Aim to answer the questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Who?</li> <li>■ When?</li> <li>■ What?</li> <li>■ How?</li> <li>■ Why?</li> </ul> |
| JUDGMENT     | Provides the reviewer's opinion of the work and a recommendation. | What is the reviewer's opinion of the work? Include positive and negative aspects and a recommendation about the overall value of reading or viewing the work. | Use evaluative language eg <i>inventive, imaginative</i>                                                                                                |
|              |                                                                   | A final recommendation for the audience to view, read or listen to the text.                                                                                   | eg <i>Viewers of all ages will enjoy this film.</i>                                                                                                     |

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