



The Written Review

Important

At the end of this presentation there is a link to a Google Forms quiz. It is recommended that you score an 80% or higher.

Please take your time reviewing and studying this material before you proceed with the quiz.

Objectives

- Explain the process involved in writing a review.
- Discuss the features of the review.
- Identify the specific structure of the review.
- Provide tools to write a review.

What is a review?

What can we review?

For what?

Definition:



A review is:

- “A critical article or report, as in a periodical, on a book, play, recital, or the like; critique; evaluation.” (dictionary.com).
- “The review is a brief writing piece that informs and at the same time gives value to a work or a cultural product; its fundamental characteristic lies in describing and issuing an evaluative judgment [...]” (Emphasis added) (Arenas, et al. 2)

Associated terms:



- **Subjective** – “Belonging or relative to the subject’s way of thinking or feeling, and not to the object itself”.
- **Objective** – “Belonging or relating to the object itself, regardless of one's way of thinking or feeling.”
- **Criticism** – “Judgment expressed, generally publicly, about a show, an artistic work, etc.”
- **Value** – “Recognizement, estimation, or appreciation of the value or merit of someone or something.”

- We can review any text or practice with cultural value (including popular culture).
- A review is **not** a summary.



The review's structure

Recommended amount of paragraphs:

1. Introduction (1)
2. Description and pertinence (1)
3. Crítica y juicio (3)
4. Conclusión (1)



1- The Introduction:

It locates the reader in time and space

- Title
- Author or person in charge of making it happen
- Date and place
- Make it clear of what is being reviewed (literary genre, medium by which it is expressed, type of work, etc.)
- Basic context/background information

2- Description and pertinence

- Purpose
- Main topic
- Central issue or message
- How pertinent is it?
- Connect with concepts or topics discussed in class
- Connect with current concepts or topics (suggestion).

3- Criticism and judgement

- Support arguments
- Focus on elements
- Analyze:
 - **Point of view** (narrative voice)
 - **Title** (relationship of the title with the text or with its reception)
 - **Foreword or introduction** (is it effective?)
 - **Structure** (form/background o content)
 - **Style** (what language or type is used?, how is this language presented or handled?)

3- Criticism and judgement (continued)

- **Topic** (what themes are included in the text?, how are they presented? which is the main one, and which are the secondary ones?)
- **Finale** (how does it relate to the rest of the text, its context, or the other contexts?)
- **Literary artifice** (does it contain rhetorical figures?, are there other genres incorporated into the text? are there ambiguities or references?)
- **Direct criticism** (how can the text be interpreted?, is it contradictory?, is the text itself a criticism of someone or something?)

4- Conclusion

- It is a general comment, as a brief recapitulation.
- It implies closure.
- The bibliographic information of the text to which you refer to is included on a separate page.
- Use the required format (MLA, APA, etc.).



What should we do while reading (or viewing) the text to be reviewed?



- “Read the book or article, taking notes in the margins” (Abramovich and Navarro 44).
- Identify concepts and premises that are of importance in the text. Also, think about *how* or *why* they are important.
- “Try to identify weak points, contradictions, omissions and errors in the text” (Abramovich y Navarro 44).
- Determine what contributions the text makes to what was discussed in class.
- Do contextual research on the text.

Before writing



We must outline the content according to the following:

- the structure of the review
- the information one has about the text
- what we want to say about it

While writing the review, we must:



- “Pay close attention to clearly distinguish the voice of the author and the characters on the one hand, and the voice of the reviewer on the other.” (Abramovich y Navarro 44).
- Include evidence from the text (citation and examples) to support what is said in the review.
- Make sure you include all the information from the text and its author, and do not include superfluous information or only summarize the text.
- Write a draft (or several) and double-check it until the final version is ready to be delivered.

Summary



Essential criteria that must be included in a written review:

1. The review should have a clear structure (header, title, introduction, body, and closing).
2. The heading should break down the basic elements: the author's name and the text, publisher, and year of publication.
3. The arguments raised should be valid and effective.
4. Sources and citations used should be expressed in their proper format (MLA or APA).

5. The review should have a coherent development.
6. Bibliographical information about the author should be included.
7. There should be correct use of punctuation marks and connectors.
8. Verify that there are no semantic inaccuracies or misspellings.

Bibliography



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