



THAT AIN'T HALF BAD... NO, IT'S ALL BAD!!!

REVIEW A FILM LIKE A PRO!

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

– Use persuasive and opinion-based language

1 HOUR

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

DIFFICULTY: ★★★★★

YOUR MISSION

Everyone's a critic, or so they say! Here at AQUILA we love to hear your opinions, and what better way to express them than with a well-written review?

Your mission is to watch a film of your choosing and write a film review.

GET STARTED

PHASE 1:

Choose a film to review. It could be an old favourite or something completely new. Settle down to watch with your snack (see our other activity), your favourite blanket, notepad and pen. While you're watching, jot down notes on the following: the plot, the costumes, the actors' performances, the camera work, the music and sound effects. What do you notice? What do you like? What works well? What don't you like?

PHASE 2:

Time to structure your review. You've watched your film and you've made your notes. You've got ideas and you're ready to write. Paragraph 1 should introduce the director, the actors and explain the plot. (If there's anything you don't know, do some research). Paragraph 2 should focus on the costume and design elements. Paragraph 3 should mention the camera work and 4 should focus on the actors' performances. Paragraph 5 should tell the reader how the film made you feel, summarise your overall opinion and give a star rating. How many marks out of 10?

PHASE 3:

Think about tone. Do you want your review to be funny, joyful or scathing? Your choice of words will create the tone and communicate your opinions.

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PHASE 4:

Let's get writing! Draft your review, using your plan to help you.

PHASE 5:

Time to edit! Whatever you're writing, whether it's a short story, an advert or a party invite, it all needs editing and proofreading! Read back through your draft and correct any grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors. It might help to ask someone else to cast an eye over your review too.

SHARE, SHARE, SHARE! We'd love to read your film reviews. Don't forget to send yours to the address on the readers' page of the AQUILA website. We'll share as many as we can.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

* When talking about camera work there are lots of things to consider. What types of camera shots worked well? Were there lots of tension-building close ups, or were there lots of wide, sweeping long shots to show us the beautiful locations? What about the lighting? Was the film very dark, or was it brightly lit and highly saturated? What did you notice?

* Try to use a variety of sentence structures in your review. Include some longer, complex sentences and some short, sharper sentences. Use a mixture of writing devices such as hyperbole, adjectives, simile, metaphor and persuasive language. This will make your review sparkle like a magpie's nest!

TOP TIP: When proofreading your work, read it aloud – this can tell you far more than reading it in your head.

CHALLENGE: Writing succinctly is difficult. Can you condense your review down to 200 words? How about 100?