

CLOVIS NORTH - BRONCO DRAMA

Critique-Musical Theatre

As an ongoing demonstration of your growth and maturity in understanding the concepts and techniques learned in class, you are expected to attend **TWO live MUSICAL stage performances and ONE filmed version** and write formal critiques on your experiences.

Things to Remember:

- A play critique is **NOT** a summary of the plot. You should spend time discussing your impressions, reflections, and criticism of the production. What elements were very artistic and powerful? Explain why. Also, what elements didn't work for you? Again, explain why.
- When citing specific examples within your critique PLEASE use actor/designer/character names to further lend credibility to your writing.
- You need to see a production at your grade level or above.
- Your critique should have 5 paragraphs (**approximately 600-750 words**). **600 WORDS IS THE MINIMUM!**
- Your critique should follow the proper MLA formatting learned in your English classes.
- All critiques **MUST BE TYPED**. Handwritten papers will **NOT** be accepted. Please use 1.5 to 2.0 line spacing.
- You **MUST** attach a ticket stub as proof that you did, in fact, attend the production.
- **YOU HAVE ONLY 2 WEEKS FROM SEEING THE SHOW TO TURN YOUR CRITIQUE IN.**
- You may email your critique to joelabels@cusd.com and I will print it out for you. You must follow up to make sure I have received it.
- Make sure you take a program home with you from the production, so you are able to discuss specific performances and designs and attribute them to names. (You do NOT need to turn in your program with your critique.)

Introduction(1 paragraph)

1. Include the date you saw the show, the title of the play, who produced the play (i.e. what company, group, school), and the playwright's name. Do not just list the items, but turn them into a complete sentence.

Example: Seeing Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park" at Good Company Player's Second Space Theatre on November 14 was an excellent evening of theatre.

2. Include your expectations for the show and your first impressions of the theatre. Reflect on how the set appears before the show starts, the mood of the theatre, etc. Don't comment on the actual show in this section, but your expectations for the show.
3. Lead in to the rest of the critique with a thesis statement. You must include a conclusion you are drawing about the show.

Example: The show was poorly done because of issues with acting, costumes, and the technical aspects.

Body (3 paragraphs: Chose three of the following to focus your writing on).

1. Acting (critique specific performances by name-save your program!)
 - a. Believability
 - b. Expression
 - c. Volume
 - d. Compatibility (were they right for the part?)
 - e. Storytelling
2. Director's Concept
 - a. Description
 - b. Hit or a miss? Why?

3. Production Aspects

- a. Lighting
- b. Sound
- c. Scenic
- d. Props
- e. Costumes

4. Musical Direction

- a. Accompaniment (Orchestra? Tracks?)
- b. Quality of sound (solo/ensemble sound)
- c. Dynamics, Articulation, Volume

5. Directing

- a. Was the show cast well?
- b. Comment on blocking and stage pictures (give specific examples)
- c. Did all the elements of the show blend together well?

Conclusion (1 paragraph)

1. Confirm or deny your initial expectations
2. Brief review (revisit something you either really liked or disliked)
3. Recommendation

DUE DATES 2019/20:

	1 st Semester		2 nd Semester	
Musical Theatre	/	December 20 th	March 27 th	May 29 th Seniors May 22 nd