



Review writing

Duration: Eight hour-long sessions, schedule to be determined
Location: Tutor's Zoom link & Google docs

Course Description: The review writing class will teach students how to write a movie, book, and restaurant review by using well-written, published reviews from magazines like 'The New Yorker, The New York Times, and Teen Vogue as models. The course is designed to build students' skill, joy, and confidence in writing.

Course Objectives: By the end of the course, students will:

- Work with various texts and writing assignments that advance and complicate their evaluative thinking
 - Learn how to review a subject in a sophisticated and balanced way
 - Learn about the process of invention, writing, and revision in a positive environment
 - Acquire knowledge of correct grammar, punctuation, style, and syntax
 - Learn to work meaningfully in a small group setting
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Calendar: This calendar, like life, is subject to change, and may be modified by individual tutors to fit the needs of the particular class

Week 1: What is Review Writing?

- Students will learn how review writing fits within the set of higher order thinking skills.
- Students will define the genre of review writing and discuss its format.
- Students will write a short review in class, using the format just learned.
- Students will read an engaging series of short book reviews to use as models for their eventual reviews.

Week 2: Book Review

- Students will read a sample product review and write one of their own, focusing on an organized presentation of opinions.
- Students will review tips for writing a meaningful book review.
- Students will read and richly analyze sample book reviews by published authors.

Week 3: Book Review cont.

- Students will compose a fun in-class review writing exercise.
- Students will examine more ingredients of a successful book review.

- Students will read and richly analyze sample book reviews by published authors to prompt them to think more deeply about their own.

Week 4: The Art of Criticism

- Students will read aloud excerpts of their completed book reviews and give feedback to each other's work.
- Students will engage in an in-class writing exercise in which they negatively review a subject.
- Students will read literature that functions as creative reviews, then begin a creative writing exercise of their own.

Week 5: Movie Review

- Students will read a sample movie review excerpt.
- Students will review a series of concrete tips for writing a compelling film review.
- Students will watch a movie clip and put their newfound movie reviewing skills into practice.

Week 6: Movie Review cont.

- Students will watch a clip of esteemed movie critics offering reviews.
- Students will read a sample movie review, using active and close-reading skills to unpack its meanings paragraph by paragraph.
- Students will watch a movie clip and put their movie reviewing skills into practice.

Week 7: Restaurant Review

- Students will read a sample movie review, using active and close-reading skills to unpack its meanings paragraph by paragraph.
- Students will begin their own food reviews by brainstorming ideas.
- Students will consider their chosen restaurant's food quality, atmosphere, service, etc.

Week 8: Reviewing People

- Students will read aloud excerpts of their completed movie or restaurant reviews and give feedback to each other's work.
- Students will watch a movie clip and provide a summary, analysis, and review.
- Students will read an essay on influence and inspiration.
- Students will begin composing a meaningful review of another person's influence on their own lives.
- Students will reflect on the class and the review writing they've produced.