

Writing a Review

English 12

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Directions: Complete steps 1-14 in your notebook.

Step 1: Brainstorm ideas for your review by completing the activities below:

- 1) List **ten** things (restaurants, movies, video games, books, types of food, albums, etc...) that you really like
- 2) List **five** things (restaurants, movies, video games, books, types of food, albums, etc...) that you think are overrated
- 3) Rank the top three things on your “Likes” list from 1-3, with #1 being the highest or best.

Then rank the top two overrated things on your “Overrated” list, with #1 being the most overrated thing.

- 4) Write about the #3 ranked thing on your “Likes” list. Explain why you like it and what you like about it.
- 5) Write about the #1 ranked thing on your “Likes” list. Explain why you like it and what you like about it.
- 6) Write about the #1 ranked thing on your “Overrated” list. Explain why you think it is overrated and what you do not like about it.

Step 2: Read the definition of a review below and **copy** it into your notebook:

What is a review? A **review** evaluates the work in question (book, movie, album, video game, etc...) based on its strong and weak points, sometimes ending with a recommendation (or a dismissal).

Step 3: Read the outline below and use it to write your own practice TV show/ movie review. *You do not have to copy this outline into your notebook. Just use it as a guide.* Choose any tv show or movie and write a short review of it. The word count for this should be between 200-300 words. Keep it simple... *This is just practice for our real review.*

Writing a TV Show Review

- I. **Intro** – Explain the overall concept of the TV show (what the whole show is about), give name of show, and genre (comedy, drama etc...)
- II. **Body #1**– Summarize the main plot of this particular episode
- III. **Body #2** – Explain/describe what you liked /didn't like about the episode
- IV. **Conclusion** – Recommend/Not Recommend. Give a rating (3 of 4 stars, 1 of 5 cd's), wrap it up!

Step 4: Read the sample Reviews below. One is for the TV show “The Office” and one is for a movie called “John Q”.

The Office – Review

The Office is a mockumentary that follows the workers at a Paper Company in Pennsylvania called Dunder Mifflin. A mockumentary is defined as a television program that takes the form of a serious documentary in order to satirize its subject. You might be asking yourself – “What could be funny about working in an office?” Well, Michael Scott and his gang of misfits try to show you the lighter side of the corporate world.

Michael Scott, the main character, portrays as a “try hard” proud boss. His actions are often observed to be harsh, unfunny, awkward, and have a cruel sense of humor. The character seems to never take in situations seriously as he places himself as “the friend”, rather than the boss. Dwight, the deviant character, portrays to be serious and over-exaggerating in minor situations. His constant corrections and tone of voice create some kind of silly humor in the show. Both characters add life to the boring office that surrounds them. Jim is a more grounded character and might also be the most relatable character. His encounters with Dwight are hilarious and very intriguing. You can tell Jim has much more common sense than Dwight; his pranks are very well thought out and extremely entertaining. The reactions of Dwight and Scott towards Jim's pranks to Dwight drew me more into the show.

For someone who is serious, The Office is not recommended. The show can pull off to be boring or even annoying to someone serious or sensitive. This could be due to Scott's approach on certain aspects or Dwight's serious anger and annoyance towards Jim. The awkwardness and seriousness kept me humored, and the fake documentary style used makes the show interesting to watch. I also very much enjoyed the hidden romance or rather flirtation between Jim and the secretary name Pam. The hidden love story keeps me wanting to find out more.

To conclude, I would moderately recommend the show to any person with a sense of humor. I give the show a three out of five rating. It has some very funny moments, but the humor can fall flat at times. As a result, The Office is an audience specific series.

Word Count: 368

Review of the Movie *John Q*

Do you like action movies? Have you seen *Scarface*? *Training Day*? *Law Abiding Citizen*? If you are familiar with these films, then you are probably like me and you love action movies. Recently, a friend recommended a movie to me called *John Q*. This film, directed by Nick Cassavetes, sends a clear message to the United States about our corrupt healthcare system.

John Q stars Denzel Washington who plays John Quincy Archibald, a father struggling to save his son who is suffering from a heart condition. John (Denzel) and his wife do not have health insurance, so they have no way to get a transplant except to pay cash. When all hope seems to be gone, John enters the hospital to ask the doctor one last time to perform the operation. When the doctor says he can't perform the transplant surgery, John locks the entrances to the E.R. with chains and holds the remaining patients and doctor's hostage with a 9mm. This is not a normal hostage situation because John is a very nice man, and the hostages see this. Brigades of armed officers arrive to the hospital and once it goes on the news, the entire public (and audience for that matter) arrives to cheer for John's cause. The hostage-negotiator, played by Robert Duvall, eventually gives John what he wants; and that is his son. John wants his son so that he can sacrifice his own life to give his son his heart. Just before he goes through with the suicide, the doctors find a matching donor.

This film is not only a terrific action movie, but it is also a very heart-warming story of a father's love for his son, as well as a true depiction of the flaws in our healthcare system in America. This movie makes you feel sad, angry, excited, all at the same time. More importantly, the movie makes you think about the changes that are needed for our healthcare system in the future. The acting in the movie is unbelievable by both Denzel Washington and Robert Duvall alike, and their performances almost make you feel that this is real footage and, as a result, you are drawn into the story.

If you have not already seen this movie, then you should rent it this weekend. I would strongly recommend this movie to anybody that likes action or just good movies in general. I can almost guarantee that anybody that sees this film will not be disappointed. This film definitely inspires you to want to fight for change in our system of healthcare to help those who can't afford it. Overall, I give this film 5 out of 5 stars.

Word Count: 454

Step 5: Read the “Review Assignment Directions” and “Guidelines for a Review” below:

Review Assignment Directions: Write a review where you critique something (a product, a restaurant, a book, a movie, a video game, etc...) and convince people to either like or not like the thing you are reviewing. Use the guidelines and rubric below as your guide when you write this review. Also, see the sample review on the back of this page.

Guidelines for a Review:

- **300 – 400 words in length**
- **Persuades the audience to like/not like the product/thing**
- **Uses sentence structure appropriate for a high school senior**
- **Is organized clearly and easy to read**
- **Has been proofread closely to avoid errors**
- **Is typed using 12 font, single-spaced, with a title that looks like the review on the back of this page and includes your name, and a word count**

Step 6: Study the “Review Rubric” below, that way you understand how you will be graded for this assignment:

Review Rubric

	5	4	3	2	1
Language/Sentence Structure	Language is sophisticated and sentence structure is excellent	Some use of sophisticated language and sentence structure is good	Uses sophisticated language at times and basic sentence structure	Little sophisticated language used and sentence structure is weak	Below average language/vocabulary and sentence structure hurts comprehension of material
Persuasiveness	The review is extremely persuasive and evaluates the work thoroughly	The review is very persuasive and evaluates the work well	The review is somewhat persuasive and evaluates the work adequately	The review is not very persuasive and evaluates the work superficially	The review is not very persuasive and does not really evaluate the work
Organization	Essay is well developed and organized into successful paragraphs	Essay is developed and organized into paragraphs	Essay is somewhat developed and organized	Essay is unorganized and hard to understand	Essay is completely unorganized and unreadable
Spelling/Grammar/Punctuation	Essay has no errors	Very few mistakes in spelling, grammar, and punctuation	Some mistakes.	Many mistakes. Essay difficult to read.	Essay is unreadable due to number of errors in spelling, grammar/punctuation.

 X5 = **(Final Grade)**

Step 7: Copy the “Review Outline” below into your notebook. *This is the one you will use to write your real review.*

Review Outline

- V. **Intro** – Explain the overall concept of the product (restaurant, video game, CD, food item), give the name of product and any related important information
- VI. **Body #1**– Summarize the main aspects of this particular product
- VII. **Body #2** – Explain/describe what you liked /didn’t like about the product
- VIII. **Conclusion** – Recommend/Not Recommend. Give a rating (3 of 4 stars, 1 of 5 cd’s), wrap it up!

Step 8: Copy the “Commas After Introductions Notes” below into your notebook and then **complete** the “Commas After Introductions Quiz” in your notebook as well, and then **check your answers** using the Answer Key.

Commas After Introductions Notes

Copy the sentence below into your notebook and if anything is wrong with it, fix it. Otherwise, leave it as is.

Therefore we need to move ahead to find peace.

You should have added a comma like you see below.

Therefore, we need to move ahead to find peace.

Again, copy the sentence below into your notebook and fix any mistakes in it. If there are none, leave it as is.

Finding no reason to stay home Clara went to the nearest restaurant for dinner.

Again, a comma was needed in the sentence.

Finding no reason to stay home, Clara went to the nearest restaurant for dinner.

Rules for Commas After Introductions

Use a comma after an introductory word or phrase.

Introductory word example:

Therefore, we need to move ahead to find peace.

Introductory phrase example:

Finding no reason to stay home, Clara went to the nearest restaurant for dinner.

Commas After Introductions Quiz

Directions: Number 1-10 in your notebook. If a comma is needed, write only the word that comes before the comma and the comma you want to add. If the sentence is correct as it is, write C for correct.

1. As the boat turned about a dozen dolphins began to follow it.
2. Since we moved into town, our fuel bill has tripled.
3. Having chosen nursing as a career Susan enrolled in many science courses.
4. Usually, I have time to eat breakfast.
5. From outside the twelve-mile fishing limits off the coast of Maine, a strange phenomenon has been reported.
6. When he was in high school he was known only as an athlete.
7. Before you decide what courses to take, you should consider the amount of work you are willing to do.
8. Nevertheless I do not want to meet him.
9. To give Jane a good look at the university Mr. Benson drove up for the Day on Campus.
10. Since the dog had started to run a way to catch him had to be found

Commas After Introductions Quiz

Answer Key

1. turned,
2. C
3. career,
4. C
5. C
6. school,
7. C
8. Nevertheless,
9. university,
10. run,

Step 9: Copy the “Ethos, Pathos, Logos Notes” below into your notebook and **complete** the “Ethos, Pathos, Logos Quiz” and **check your answers** using the Answer Key.

Ethos, Pathos, Logos Notes

Ethos, Pathos, and Logos are persuasion tools that help writers make their argument *appeal* to readers.

Copy the definition of ethos, pathos, logos below into your notebook.

Ethos – An appeal to authority. Credibility.

Logos – An appeal to logic/fact.

Pathos – An appeal to emotion.

Ethos/Pathos/Logos Quiz

Directions: Number 1-10 and take the quiz below.

Directions: Identify whether each phrase best represents ethos, logos, or pathos.

- 1) _____ “60% of the time, it works every time.”-Anchorman
- 2) _____ By donating only fifty cents a day, you can help give a child clean drinking water.
- 3) _____ “Choosy moms choose Jiff.”-Jiff Peanut Butter Commercial
- 4) _____ The Centers for Disease Control recommends getting a flu vaccine each fall.
- 5) _____ Nearly 25% of all car accidents are caused by drivers using cell phones while driving.
- 6) _____ My coach suggested I cross-train on Sundays to work different muscle groups.
- 7) _____ Since my little brother has to start school before me, I should let him shower first.
- 8) _____ Smoking around kids is dangerous because the defenseless children are exposed to dangerous chemicals that can lead to coughing and difficulty breathing and could even lead to deadly asthma attacks.
- 9) _____ Michael Jordan is better than LeBron James because Jordan won six championships and James has only won two.
- 10) _____ Listerine is recommended most by dental professionals.

Ethos, Logos, Pathos Quiz ANSWER KEY

- 1) Logos
- 2) Pathos
- 3) Ethos
- 4) Ethos
- 5) Logos
- 6) Ethos
- 7) Logos
- 8) Pathos
- 9) Logos
- 10) Ethos

Step 10: Copy the “Every Day vs. Everyday” Notes below into your notebook and then **complete** the quiz after the notes. Check your answers using the Answer Key.

Every Day vs. Everyday Notes

What is the difference between **everyday** and **every day**?

everyday – routine, commonplace, ordinary

every day – every single day, each day

Examples:

I run two miles **every day**.

TV plays an important part in **everyday** life.

Every Day Vs. Everyday Quiz Directions: Number 1-5 in your notebook and label it “Everyday vs. Every Day Quiz”. Then pick the best choice for each sentence.

1. He wears a bow tie **everyday/every day**.
2. She wanted to get away from **everyday/every day** boring life.
3. It is a challenge **everyday/every day** to wake up early.
4. It is an **everyday/ every day** occurrence to run into John at the mall.
5. Live **everyday/every day** like it is your last!

Every Day vs. Everyday Quiz Answer Key

1. every day
2. everyday
3. every day
4. everyday
5. every day

Each question is worth 20 pts. Multiply the number you got wrong X 20 and minus that from 100. That is your grade. Write that grade in your notebook.

Step 11: Copy the +/- chart below into your notebook. Use the directions below the chart to revise your Review.

+		-
---	--	---

Directions for revising the review: Write down all the things that you think are good about your review in the + column and all the things that you think need work in the – column. Then, answer the questions below.

What is the best part about this review?

Which part of this review could use improvement?

Did you notice any mistakes that were made frequently throughout the review?

Are there any skills I used that really helped the review? Or are there any that were missed that would help the review? *See the list of skills we learned for this piece below:*

Everyday vs. Every Day

Everyday = Common

Every Day = Every single day/each day

Commas After Introductions

If they want to win, athletes must exercise every day.

Ethos/Logos/Pathos

Ethos = “Endorsement”

Pathos = Emotion

Logos = Logic (fact)

Combining Sentences

Combine shorter, simpler sentences into longer, more complex ones.

Step 12: Write the Rough Draft of your **Review** in your notebook.

Step 13: Proofread the **Rough Draft** of your **Review** in your Notebook.

Step 14: Type up the **Final Copy** of your **Review** and **submit** it to **Google Classroom** by the deadline.