Critical Review Study Sheet

Goals of this Study Sheet

The goal of this study sheet is to breakdown and summarize the components of a critical review assignment.

Explanation

Critical Review are assignments that allow students to show their ability to evaluate, summarize and analyze texts such as articles, reports, books, movies or advertisements.

As you begin the first step of your assignment, which would be to read, watch or listen to whatever you are trying to review, begin your summary. Your summary should entail:

- Background information
- Plot
- Main characters
- Highlights of the book, movie, etc.

The summary is an overview of information. It should not sound like you are completely retelling each aspect of your movie, book, etc. The summary should also be covered and taken care of in your introduction.

Next, begin your evaluation which you can also looks at as making your own judgement. This should entail:

- What did the author/creator do well?
- What did the author/creator do poorly? What could have made it better?
- What is the overall purpose of the work?
  - Are there bigger themes and ideas in relation or in context to this work?
  - Did they convey their message successfully?

The last bullet should be addressed in your thesis briefly then dissected and explained throughout your paper.
After you address summary and evaluation, which are major components within a critical review, focus on your analysis which should concentrate on:

- What is the author’s intent?
- What are the elements of the work trying to portray?

Your analysis should guide your thesis and be a constant aspect discussed throughout your paper. It will be the most important part of your paper seeing that it is the main explanation of your critical review.

**Things to Remember**

When writing, keep in mind of the hierarchy of the work itself; broad to specific. First, address your brief summary that entails the most important, basic components in your introductory paragraph. Then include your evaluation which is addressed in your thesis first and again, briefly but should continue to be discussed throughout your body paragraphs. Now, your final and most important objective; your analysis. Again, the analysis is the main part of a critical review and should shape your thesis, or the main point.

**Conclusion**

As a whole, your critical review should resemble a clear understanding of the piece of text you are trying to review. You should aim to inform while telling your readers a bit of your experience and judgements.

**Sources Referenced**

*How to Write a Critical Analysis Essay*. Papersowl.com, 2018