

Evaluation Essay for ENG 101
Dr. Daniela Ragusa, Professor of English
Suggested Partners or Events: Theaters, One Play

Your Name
Prof. Name
Course
Due Date

Title

Start with an **introduction** to the play that describes a **scene** that caught your attention, and describe it as vividly as possible. Include an important **quote** or some brief **dialog** from this scene spoken by the characters in it.

(include a **still shot** from the play here)

Continue the introduction in the next paragraph by giving the play's title, the director's name, the main characters and the names of the actors who play them; describe the main setting, and basic plot. End with a strong **thesis** in the form of a recommendation to viewers to either attend or skip the play you are evaluating.

Write 1 to 2 paragraphs **describing** the play's basic plot to give readers unfamiliar with the play a context for a basic understanding your chosen topic. Do not fall into the trap of summarizing the entire story from beginning to middle to end. Give your readers just enough information so that they can understand the gist of the story without explaining every detail.

Write 1 paragraph giving a clearly defined **criteria** of the standards and expectations for attending the theater and watching a live performance. What do viewers expect when they go see a play? How does the play you are reviewing hold up to these standards and expectations?

Write at least 1 paragraph where you give a **balanced and fair assessment** of the play you are reviewing. Include what was strong about it, as well as its flaws.

Write a few paragraphs where you demonstrate a **knowledgeable discussion** of the play in two ways: (1) by comparing it to the another play you watched, and (2) by referring to what other critics have had to say about it in the reviews you have read (use MLA citation style to credit their ideas whether you quote or paraphrase.)

End your essay with a **conclusion paragraph** that gives your **final recommendation** on the play. Should readers spend their time and money viewing this play? Why or why not? Explain which **specific audience** you are trying to persuade with your recommendation—which kinds of theater goers would enjoy this play, and why?

Works Cited

Include a works cited page at the end of your essay that has a full list of your **sources** (both the reviews you cite and the play itself, as well as the link to the image you found on Google Images for your still shot) alphabetized by authors' and directors' last names. Be sure your works cited page looks like an MLA works cited page should, and that it includes a hanging indent for each resource you include in your essay.

Everything in bold above represents elements for this writing project that will be graded.
Essay assignment adapted from *The Norton Field Guide to Writing* by Richard Bullock