

Formal Film Review

Independent Write

Formal Review

What features are we looking for?

Persuasive language and devices (note the effect and annotate the sheet);

Conjunctions and cohesive devices.

Formal

modal verbs e.g. Should it...would appear...

passive voice e.g. have been taken by

technical, or subject specific vocabulary

Subjunctive

Informal

contractions

questions

Direct address to the reader and the use of first person e.g. If you love...

Idioms e.g. the words are stuck in my throat

Review of Wicked by Rosie Reeves, Harper's Bazaar, May 2014

EXPERIENCE THE WONDER AND MAGIC OF OZ WITH AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL WICKED

If you think you know the tale of Oz, then think again...

Adapted from the book by Gregory Maguire, award-winning musical Wicked spins the world-famous tale of The Wizard of Oz on its head to reveal the untold story of green-skinned, misunderstood Elphaba and popular blonde Glinda. Despite an initial 'unadulterated loathing' for each other, the pair develop an unlikely friendship as students together - driven by Glinda's determination to make Elphaba popular. There's rivalry and heartbreak (enter dashing hosiery-clad love interest Fiyero), drama, magic and an eventual meeting with The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, which ultimately sees them fulfil their destinies as the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda The Good (who everyone will recognise from Dorothy's original trip down the Yellow Brick Road).

Now booking into its ninth year at the Apollo Victoria Theatre, Wicked's score and staging remains unchanged from the original spectacular production. And, while nine years in the West End would tire some musicals, it's only matured Wicked into one of the country's strongest and most enduringly popular shows. But universal storyline, enchanting characters and mesmerising costumes aside, there is one thing that keeps Wicked alive in the hearts of its audience long after watching - the songs. From powerful goose-bump-inducing ballads to catchy tunes that make you want to leap up on stage and join in, composer Stephen Schwartz has created a lyric and melody for everyone.

Re-read the model text.

Currently taking on the role of Elphaba is the electrifying Willemijn Verkaik - the only leading lady to have played the part in three different languages. On the other side of the stage is Savannah Stevenson, perfectly portraying Glinda - silliness, bad jokes, hair tossing and all.

The actresses' passion and love for Wicked shines on stage, and supported by a fellow cast of immensely talented, all-singing all-dancing Oz-folk, they allow the audience to really connect with the story.

There is longevity in Wicked that we rarely see in the West End, not to mention across the world. It casts a spell on its audience with a touching story of friendship and being true to yourself, sparks memories with subtle tongue-in-cheek nods to the original Wizard of Oz (cue Elphaba singing 'I'd be so happy I could melt') and keeps feet tapping for months afterwards.

Enlightening, hilarious, heartbreaking and suitably magical - if you haven't yet, we recommend you rush to see Wicked. Just be warned: you WILL want to go back again.

Independent Write – Formal Film Review

- Last term, you wrote a film review for *The Wizard of Oz* in class using the model text.
- Today we would like you to write another film review, which you planned for during the holidays for homework, using the same key skills and planning frame to help structure your writing.
- Please look at the model text and use that to help you write your review.
- On the next few pages, we have included helpful reminders from our flip chart and our Working Wall.

L.O. To write a formal film review..

Independent Piece

Plan in your Jotters and make a list of key skills, language and phrases you want to include.

Keep your review formal but with some informal phrases.

Review Key Writing Skills



Top Tip!
Use the model
text.

- Use devices to build cohesion between paragraphs in persuasive texts;
- Manage shifts between formal and informal language;
- Use the passive voice;
- Use parenthesis – commas, dashes and brackets

Marking Ladder – Review

Use a combination of formal and informal language.		Pupil
Mild	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use of commas for parenthesis.• Opening which hooks the reader.• Rhetorical questions.• Use of dashes and brackets for parenthesis.• Build cohesion through the review e.g. despite, currently.	
Spicy		
Hot		
	<p>Informal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• direct address to the reader (first person) e.g. If you think you know...• informal phrases and idioms e.g. It casts a spell on its audience; It's raining cats and dogs; <p>Formal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• technical language e.g. musical score.• passive voice.• modal verbs e.g. You will want to go and see it.• Subjunctive form e.g. If I were...	
I think my writing is _____		

L.O. To plan a film review using a frame.

Screenplay by:	When it was first screened:
Cast: Who performed well and why?	Summary of story:
Which scenes did you enjoy the most and why?	What did you think about...? The sets Acting The musical numbers - singing & choreography Costumes & make-up Special effects
Overall opinion: What did you think?	

Planning Frame



Chunk 1	Tagline (A memorable dramatic phrase that sums up the performance)	
Chunk 2	Hook (Draws the reader in)	
Chunk 3	Summary of the story: Screenplay written by; Based on the book by; Main characters; Plot.	
Chunk 4	What makes it a popular film: acting; songs & choreography; costumes & make-up; sets; special effects	
Chunk 5	Actors/actresses and their performance Who stole the show/film?	
Chunk 6	Conclusion/summary of review: Lasting effect on audience; Worldwide appeal; Longevity.	
Chunk 7	Final persuasive statements/claims	

Review and use the plan you completed for homework in the holidays (in your Homework book).

Taglines and Hooks

Try to use songs, names, themes to create a play on words.

**EXPERIENCE THE WONDER AND MAGIC OF OZ WITH AWARD-WINNING
MUSICAL WICKED**

(A memorable dramatic phrase that sums up the performance)

If you think you know the tale of Oz, then think again...

(Draws the reader in)

DREAM ANY DREAM WITH THE POPULAR
TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL JOSEPH

If you think your dreams are amazing, then think again...

Review of Wicked by Rosie Reeves

Imperative verb → EXPERIENCE THE WONDER AND MAGIC OF OZ WITH AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL WICKED. ← Tagline

Passive voice → If you think you know the tale of Oz, then think again... ← Draw the reader in

Adapted from the book by Gregory Maguire, award-winning musical Wicked spins the world-famous tale of The Wizard of Oz on its head to reveal the untold story of green-skinned, misunderstood Elphaba and popular blonde Glinda. Despite an initial 'unadulterated loathing' for each other, the pair develop an unlikely friendship as students together - driven by Glinda's determination to make Elphaba popular. There's rivalry and heartbreak (enter dashing hosiery-clad love interest Fiyero), drama, magic and an eventual meeting with The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, which ultimately sees them fulfil their destinies as the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda The Good (who everyone will recognise from Dorothy's original trip down the Yellow Brick Road).

Modal verb → Now looking into its ninth year at the Apollo Victoria Theatre, Wicked's score and staging remains unchanged from the original spectacular production. And while nine years in the West End should fire some musicals, it's only matured Wicked into one of the country's strongest and most enduringly popular shows. ← Conjunction

With universal storytelling, enchanting characters and mesmerising costumes aside, there is one thing that keeps Wicked alive in the hearts of its audience long after watching - the songs. From powerfully goose-bump-inducing ballads to catchy tunes that make you want to leap up on stage and join in, composer Stephen Schwartz has created a lyric and melody for everyone. ← Persuasive noun phrases

Currently taking on the role of Elphaba is the electrifying, extraordinary Savannah Stevenson - the only leading lady to have played the part in three different languages. On the other side of the stage is Savannah Stevenson, perfectly portraying Glinda - silliness, bad jokes, hair toying and all. ← Personal pronoun

The actresses' passion and love for Wicked shines on stage, and supported by a fellow cast of immensely talented, all-singing all-dancing Oz-folk, they allow the audience to really connect with the story. ← Passive voice

There is longevity in Wicked that we rarely see in the West End. Not to mention across the world. It casts a spell on its audience with a touching story of friendship and being true to yourself, sparks memories with subtle tongue-in-cheek nods to the original Wizard of Oz (cue Elphaba singing 'I'd be so happy I could melt') and keeps feet tapping for months afterwards.

Enlightening, hilarious, heartbreaking and suitably magical - if you haven't yet, we recommend you rush to see Wicked. Just be warned: you WILL want to go back again. ← Direct to the reader

Informal **Formal**

Cohesive devices

How are brackets and dashes used in the text?

Model Text from our Working Wall

From our Working Wall

Informal

hit movie springs few
surprises
still flocking to see

If you think you know the tale of
Oz, then think again ...
spins the tale on its head
alive in the hearts of its audience
catchy tunes all-singing all-dancing
goose-bump-inducing ballads
shines on stage
keeps feet tapping
If you haven't yet, we recommend
you rush to see —

Formal

hugely successful stage version
touring across the world
the execution of the play
perfect technical accomplishment by
puppeteers
played with brilliant innocence by ...

award-winning musical
reveal the untold story
Wicked's score and staging remains
unchanged from the original
~~spectacular~~ production
spectacular
Currently taking on the role of ...

Technical Vocabulary

puppeteers

touring

score

staging

audience

touring

sets

choreography

costumes

technicolour

Now you are ready to write...

You did a brilliant job of your *Wizard of Oz* reviews, and we are confident that you will do well today – make sure you use the planning frame and the model text.

Please send us your fabulous writing via See-Saw.