**Writing Reviews**

**What is a review?**

- A review is a critical evaluation

(A text, an event, a movie, etc.)

- A review makes an argument

**\*Do assigned reading—critically read!**

* **Describe the work and its topic**
* **Brief Introduction**
	+ Author/book title/theme
	+ Context/framework
	+ Thesis
* **Quick, concise summary**
	+ Set the stage—who, what, when, where?
	+ Should only be a small portion of review, general
* **Analyze the work**
* **Where is the bar set—what is the criterion?**
* **Critical assessment section**
	+ *Ask yourself various questions about the text, such as:*
		- Why did the author choose this topic?
		- Who is the audience?
		- What sources are used?
		- What arguments are made?
		- How does the author support his/her argument?
		- How is his/her argument structured?
		- What were the author’s goals?
	+ *Next, discuss:*
		- Were these goals appropriate?
		- Whether or not the author achieved these goals
		- Why/why not? How?
			* Back with evidence, include specific examples
		- Strengths and weaknesses of reading
* **Conclusion**
	+ Sum up
	+ Final assessment/evaluation

**\*Remember: to evaluate, you must first understand**

**Types of Reviews**

* **Book Review**
* Points to consider:
	+ What is the genre? Does the book fit?
	+ Point of view – do you agree or disagree?
	+ What is the author’s style? Is it suitable for audience?
	+ Is language clear and convincing?
	+ What did the book accomplish?
	+ Was the index accurate?
	+ Were their footnotes? Did they clarify information?
* Fiction books
	+ What was story about?
	+ Who were the main characters?
	+ Favorite part/least favorite and why?
	+ Would you change something?
	+ Would you recommend?
* **Film Review**
* Points to consider:
	+ Often requires multiple viewings
		- First, enjoy the film cinematically
		- Next, distance from plot and focus on elements of film to highlight
		- Formal techniques (cinematography, editing, lighting, etc.) vs. thematic content (issues such as gender, class, environment, etc.)
	+ Develop your central idea/claim and analyze
	+ Is it worth recommending?
	+ Format:
		- Introduction – basic film information including name, year, director, major actors, and introduce central idea
		- Plot summary – keep this brief and do not include spoilers
		- Description – include a more detailed description of what stands out in the film
		- Analysis – formal techniques and thematic content; how do these affect the film and your experiensce/interpretation?
		- Conclusion/Evaluation – remind reader of general thoughts and why you do/do not recommend film