

How to write a film review

A. Think about a film you have seen recently and answer the questions. Share your answers with a partner.

1. What was the film called?
2. What genre was it?
3. Where was it set?
4. Who were the main characters?
5. What character development was there?
6. What significant creative elements did it have?
(special effects, cinematography, costumes, music, make-up etc.)
7. Would you recommend the film?



B. Look at these adjectives to describe films. Are they positive or negative?

first-rate	uninteresting	original	dramatic	weak	second-rate
disappointing	flawed	violent	imaginative	riveting	
low-budget	slow	suspenseful	legendary	thought-provoking	

C. Use the adjectives from **B** to write 4 sentences about the films you have seen. Write two positive sentences and two negative sentences. **DON'T** use the name of the film.

Despite having legendary special effects like the entire series, the weak plot and disappointing development of the main Jedi character left me feeling uninspired.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Share your sentences with your partner. Can they guess the name of the film?

- D. A film review often follows a 4 paragraph plan. Look at these elements of a film review. Which paragraph would they fit into?

Review format:Title

1. Introduction
2. Summary
3. Analysis
4. Conclusion

criticism	outline of main elements	name of the film
information about the characters	adjectives	a recommendation
specific examples of good/bad elements	praise for good elements	
a personalised opinion	the plot	1-line summary

Are there any other elements you can include in film reviews? Which paragraph would they be included in?

- E. Choose one of the options below and write your review.

OPTION 1

You recently saw this notice in an English-language magazine:

REVIEWS WANTED

Have you seen a film recently with an interesting main character?

Write a review of the film explaining what it is about, why the main character is interesting and if you would recommend it.

Write your review.

OPTION 2

A film website has asked for reviews of films that have an important message. It could be a review of a documentary with a social message or a fictional film that teaches a life lesson.

Your review should explain what you learnt from the film and evaluate how interesting it was. It should also include a recommendation.

Write your review.

ANSWER KEY

B.

Positive: first-rate, original, dramatic, imaginative, riveting, suspenseful, legendary, thought-provoking

Negative: uninteresting, weak, second-rate, disappointing, flawed, violent, low-budget, slow

D.

1. Introduction – name of the film, 1-line summary
2. Summary – outline of main events, information about the characters, the plot
3. Analysis – adjectives, specific examples of good/bad elements, criticism, praise for good elements
4. Conclusion – a personalised opinion, a recommendation

E.

OPTION 1

"The Accountant" starring Ben Affleck.

"The Accountant" is a action film about a math savant named Christian Wolff (played by Affleck) who works as a freelance accountant for some of the world's most dangerous criminal organisations. The film is full of twists and turns as Christian tries to uncover a conspiracy and clear his name.

What makes the leading role, Christian Wolff, so interesting is his singular mix of brilliance and vulnerability. Affleck's portrayal of Wolff shows a man who is brilliant with numbers but struggles to connect with people and understand emotions. This creates a character that is both relatable and fascinating to watch. The film also explores Wolff's backstory, including his childhood and the events that led him to become an accountant for criminal organisations.

I would definitely recommend this film to fans of action and suspense. Affleck's performance is outstanding, and the film's plot is expertly crafted to keep you on the edge of your seat. The film's combination of action, suspense, and character development makes it a must-see for fans of the genre.

"The Accountant" is a thrilling film with a unique main character. Ben Affleck's representation of Christian Wolff is mesmerizing, and the film's wonderfully crafted plot will make you hold your breath. If you're a fan of action and suspense, this is a film that you won't want to miss.

OPTION 2

"The Pursuit of Happyness" - A Heartwarming Tale with an Important Message

The Pursuit of Happyness is a 2006 film that follows the story of Chris Gardner, a struggling salesman who turns his life around to become a successful stockbroker. The film, directed by Gabriele Muccino, stars Will Smith and is based on the real-life story of Gardner. The film's message is one of hope and perseverance.

Chris Gardner's journey from salesman to stockbroker is proof that anything is possible if you are willing to work hard and never give up on your dreams. The film lets you believe that no matter how difficult things may seem, you should always strive to be happy and never surrender.

The film is an emotional and compelling tale. Will Smith's performance as Chris Gardner is outstanding, and his portrayal of the character is both inspiring and touching. The film's script is full of powerful moments that resonate with the audience. The film is also expertly made, and the cinematography captures the beauty and heartbreak of Gardner's journey in a way that is both engaging and captivating.

The Pursuit of Happyness is a must-see film. It is a heartwarming tale that teaches important life lessons and is a testament to the power of determination and positive thinking. The film is well-acted, well-written, and visually stunning, making it an enjoyable experience for audiences of all ages. I highly recommend this film to anyone who is looking for a story that will leave them feeling motivated and inspired.