

The Dance Review



Newspapers and other publications frequently review dance companies and performances. By writing a subjective review of a dance piece you will have an understanding of how your own work may be critiqued in the future.

Description of assignment:

Write a review of a piece of dance that you have seen, either in a live performance setting or on screen.

- Use lots of description. Describe the stage sets, costumes, music, movement, choreography, and dancers. Try to help readers visualise what you have seen.
- Interpret the dance for readers. Dance can be difficult to interpret because movements do not have specific meanings like words do. Dance can only vaguely create messages. Such phrases as "may have referred," "was a reminder," and "presumably symbolised" indicate that you are interpreting the dance and assigning meaning to the movements.
- Evaluate the dance. Before spending a lot of money on tickets, an audience wants to know whether a performance is "good" or "bad." They want an educated opinion of the piece. You should justify *why* you think the piece is good or bad and give specific examples.

You can look at some examples of Dance Reviews here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage>

<https://www.theguardian.com/profile/judithmackrell>

Good luck & we look forward to seeing you in our first lesson!