

Writing a Review

Objective: Students will learn the components of a review and practice writing their own review of a chosen subject.

Grade Level: Middle school or high school.

Lesson Ideas!

Introduction

- Begin the lesson by discussing with students what a review is and why they are important.
- Show examples of different types of reviews (e.g., movie reviews, book reviews, restaurant reviews) and discuss their key features.

Discussing Components of a Review

Use a mentor text so that students can identify the key components of a review

Analyzing Sample Reviews

- Provide students with sample reviews and ask them to analyze the structure and content.
- In small groups or as a class, discuss the following questions:
 - What are the main points made in the review?
 - How does the reviewer support their opinions?
 - What language or tone is used in the review?

Brainstorming Ideas

Have students brainstorm ideas for subjects they could review. This could include movies, books, restaurants, video games, products, etc.

Writing Practice

- Give students time to write their own reviews based on the subject they chose during the brainstorming session.
- Remind students to include the key components discussed earlier: introduction, developing paragraphs, and conclusion.
- Circulate the room to provide assistance and guidance as needed.

Sharing and Feedback

Once students have finished writing, encourage classmates to provide constructive feedback on each other's reviews, focusing on strengths and areas for improvement.

Reflection

Once you have the corrections, conduct feedback sessions individually with each student to offer additional explanations, guidance, and advice. Encourage students to revise their reviews as needed.

Writing a Review

Format

INTRODUCTION (PARAGRAPH 1)

Say what you are reviewing and add some background.

Last weekend I went to ... when

Three months ago I had the pleasure to go to ...

I read the book when I

The novel tells the story of ...

DEVELOPMENT (PARAGRAPH 2)

Review some of the positive aspects.

What I liked about the restaurant was...

I was impressed by ...

DEVELOPMENT (PARAGRAPH 3)

Mention some weaker points.

What I didn't like was...

The worst part was when ...

CONCLUSION (PARAGRAPH 4)

Give a brief summary of your main points mentioned in your review and then recommend or do not recommend the product/service.

To conclude, ..

All in all, ...

If I ever get the chance to ... I

I highly recommend going to

Writing a Review

Mentor Text

Restaurant Review: Delicious Bites

located in the heart of the city, Delicious Bites is a cozy restaurant that promises a culinary journey through flavors from around the world. With its warm ambiance and diverse menu, it attracts food enthusiasts seeking both familiar comforts and exciting new tastes.

One of the standout features of Delicious Bites is its extensive menu offering a wide variety of dishes to suit every palate. From classic Italian pasta to spicy Thai curries, there's something for everyone here. The freshness of ingredients is evident in every bite, with vibrant flavors and beautiful presentation. The staff are friendly and attentive, always ready to offer recommendations or accommodate dietary restrictions. Additionally, the portion sizes are generous, ensuring that diners leave satisfied without breaking the bank.

While the menu at Delicious Bites is huge, the quality of some dishes can be inconsistent. Although some dishes are expertly crafted, others fall short in terms of flavor or execution. This inconsistency can be frustrating for diners who expect a consistently high standard across the board. Furthermore, the restaurant can get quite crowded during peak hours, leading to longer wait times and a noisy atmosphere that detracts from the dining experience.

Overall, Delicious Bites offers a satisfying dining experience with its diverse menu and welcoming ambiance. However, there is some room for improvement in terms of consistency and managing crowds. Having said that, the restaurant's strengths outweigh its weaknesses. I highly recommend visiting Delicious Bites to delight your taste buds.

Writing a Review

Mentor Text

Restaurant Review: Delicious Bites

INTRODUCTION (PARAGRAPH 1)

TOPIC SENTENCE

located in the heart of the city, Delicious Bites is a cozy restaurant that promises a culinary journey through flavors from around the world. With its warm ambiance and diverse menu, it attracts food enthusiasts seeking both familiar comforts and exciting new tastes.

DEVELOPMENT (PARAGRAPH 2)

TOPIC SENTENCE

One of the standout features of Delicious Bites is its extensive menu offering a wide variety of dishes to suit every palate. From classic Italian pasta to spicy Thai curries, there's something for everyone here. The freshness of ingredients is evident in every bite, with vibrant flavors and beautiful presentation. **Moreover**, the staff are friendly and attentive, always ready to offer recommendations or accommodate dietary restrictions. **Additionally**, the portion sizes are generous, ensuring that diners leave satisfied without breaking the bank.

DEVELOPMENT (PARAGRAPH 3)

TOPIC SENTENCE

While the menu at Delicious Bites is huge, the quality of some dishes can be inconsistent. **Although** some dishes are expertly crafted, others fall short in terms of flavor or execution. This inconsistency can be frustrating for diners who expect a consistently high standard across the board. **Furthermore**, the restaurant can get quite crowded during peak hours, leading to longer wait times and a noisy atmosphere that detracts from the dining experience.

CONCLUSION (PARAGRAPH 4)

Overall, Delicious Bites offers a satisfying dining experience with its diverse menu and welcoming ambiance. **However**, there is some room for improvement in terms of consistency and managing crowds. Having said that, the restaurant's strengths outweigh its weaknesses. I highly recommend visiting Delicious Bites to delight your taste buds.

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Writing a Review

Mentor Text Analysis + Writing Task

Restaurant Review: Delicious Bites

Read the review and identify the following features of the text using different colors.

- Paragraphs (introduction, developing paragraphs, conclusion)
- The topic sentence in each paragraph
- Supporting details
- Linkers, connectors

Answer

1. How does the introduction capture the reader's attention?
2. What is included in the conclusion of the review?
3. Does the conclusion summarize the main points of the review effectively?
4. How would you describe the language and tone used in the review?
5. What do you think is the target audience?

Writing Task

Imagine you are Ed Sheeran, watch the clip and write a short review of the restaurant. [CLIP LINK](#).

Your writing should include ...

- Four paragraphs (intro, developing paragraphs with good and weak points, and a conclusion).
- Underline the topic sentences in each paragraph.
- Add linkers.



Writing a Review

Extra Practice 1

Read the movie review and write the conclusion!



Movie Review: Oppenheimer

"Oppenheimer" is a movie about a famous scientist, J. Robert Oppenheimer, during World War II. It's directed by James Cameron and explores themes like science, right and wrong, and what it means to be human.

The best thing about "Oppenheimer" is its amazing actors, especially Michael Fassbender who plays Oppenheimer. Fassbender really brings Oppenheimer to life, showing how smart he was but also the tough choices he had to make. The movie looks great too, with beautiful shots and scenes that make you feel like you're really there. The story keeps you interested and blends real history with exciting drama.

But "Oppenheimer" isn't perfect. Some parts of the movie feel slow, especially in the middle. It's like they spend too much time on some scenes, and it makes the movie drag. Also, some people say the movie doesn't stick exactly to what really happened, which might bother some viewers. While changes can make the story more exciting, they can also make it less true to history.

Writing a Review

Extra Practice 2

Choose one of the topics below and write a review

- a) Write a review of a movie you have recently seen.
- b) Write a review of a book you have recently read.
- c) Write a review of a game you have recently played.

Before you write:

- Brainstorm ideas on an extra sheet of paper.
- Organize your thoughts and key points.
- Consider your audience! Are you going to write for adults, teens?
- Read the rubric to know what makes good writing.

REVIEW WRITING RUBRIC



	Excellent (2.5 points)	Good (2 points)	Satisfactory (1.5 points)	Needs Improvement
CONTENT	Writer gives a brief summary of topic, including examples and evidence from summary	Summary is either a little too long or not long enough but is not quite as compelling; fewer details from the movie/book and evidence from summary to support reviewer's opinion	Summary is either much too short or much too long; may be vague or tell too much; few details about the topic and little evidence from summary to support reviewer's opinion	An insignificant summary; no details and little evidence from summary to support reviewer's opinion
ORGANIZATION	Review is strongly organized with clear transitions and logical connections that create a sense of being tightly woven together.	Review is organized but lacks a sense of flow which is somewhat abrupt.	Review lacks strong organization; jumps around too much or lacks effective transitions; not in logical order.	Review is choppy or incohesive; organization is unclear; few effective transitions.
GRAMMAR AND MECHANICS	Excellent use of grammar structures, language of opinions and recommendation, adjectives, adverbs, vocabulary.	Good use of grammar structures, language of opinions and recommendation, adjectives, adverbs, vocabulary.	Shows a pattern of errors in spelling, grammar, syntax and/or punctuation. Could also be a sign of lack of proofreading.	Lots of errors, needs editing.
EVALUATION	The review strongly "sells" the book/movie. The voice is authentic and enthusiastic (sounds like you honestly enjoyed the book).	The review will appeal to the audience, however, the voice could be stronger.	The review appeals to audience somewhat.	No evaluation is present.

