



A Checklist for **Book, Film, and Play Reviews**

- Does the first paragraph include the title and other important information, such as the author's, playwright's, or director's name?
- Does the introduction give readers an idea of the nature and scope of the work? Does it establish criteria for evaluation?
- Are evaluative terms or phrases such as "good action" or "like a soap opera" defined? (What are the characteristics of good action? What does a soap opera involve?)
- Does an early paragraph orient the reader by briefly summarizing the plot or contents?
- Does the review make reasonable assertions and present convincing evidence (quotes, examples, and specific references) to support those assertions?
- Is the tone appropriate? Does it suggest that the reviewer is being fair? Does it indicate respect for readers?
- Does the reviewer avoid overuse of phrases like "I think" and "in my opinion"? (These qualifiers tend to weaken arguments.)