

# BROADWAY 101

A Comprehensive Study Guide  
covering everything that is Broadway.

## Theater Critic

### Activity: Theater Criticism

On your own

Review the reviewers by reading as many reviews as you can - try and find of a show you have seen. Are all the critics' opinions the same? What do they disagree on? Is there one critic you agree with most?

Write your own theater review. Remember that your reading audience hasn't seen the show, and are depending on you to give them a clear idea of what it is like. Your review should include:

- ✓ A brief plot synopsis
- ✓ Some description of the physical production (e.g., sets, costumes, lights)
- ✓ Your opinion of the script itself (remember to support your opinions with specific examples)
- ✓ Your assessment of the actors' and director's work (e.g., did they do a good job with a poor script, or vice versa - support your opinions with specific examples)
- ✓ Your recommendation to your readers on whether this is a show they should see
- ✓ Basic information such as ticket prices, theater location, and running time of the show

Additional considerations before writing your review include:

Topic	Related Questions
Images retained	When you close your eyes and think back to the performance, how many moments can you clearly visualize in your head? Why are these images the ones you have retained?
Strongest moment	What for you was the strongest moment in the performance (e.g., a moment of tension, sadness, anger, beauty, truth, or _____)? Describe an image or a particular scene, which affected you the most.
Weakest moment	Which moment was the weakest for you? How might that moment have been strengthened?
Inconsistencies	Were there any problems with the production's logic or coherence (e.g., anything that jarred or seemed out of place with the rest of the performance)?

Didn't understand	Were there any points in the performance that confused you, or where you couldn't work out the intentions?
Stronger point overall	Did the performance have a particular strength (e.g., the acting, the design)?
Weaker point overall	Did the performance have a particular weakness?
Personal response	List three discussion points to bring up in class.

Read your review to your class. Be ready to explain why you came to your conclusions.