



Five tips for a top-notch film review

1. Lights, action, camera ... and a long line of credits

Plenty of people and decisions influence how a film is made. The film you see on screen is the result of a big creative jigsaw. Script, sound, storyline, directors, actors, lighting, sets, editing – all the people in that long line of credits at the end of a film play a role. Pick out some of the elements of the film you respond to most and explain why they do or don't work.

2. Don't give away the plot

This is a key rule of reviewing. Feel free to explain a little about the plot but don't reveal any of the surprises or major twist, even if Sam *does* fall in love with Mary at the end.

3. Hook us in!

Starting your review with "This film is about ..." doesn't exactly scream "Read me!" Make your reader sit up and pay attention to what you're about to say. Write creatively and sharply and ask yourself, is this good enough for the rest of the world to read? Can you imagine your review published right here on the Little Big Shots website? Hook us in and keep us there.

4. How good were the stars?

Think about the performances of the lead actors. Did they do a good job? Were they believable? Did they "get under the skin" of their role or did you feel like you were always watching "the actor"? Did you like the characters and did you care about what happened to them in the film? Tell us!

5. How did the film make you feel?

Filmmakers want audiences to respond to their film. Pay attention to how you're feeling while you're watching a film. Are you happy, sad, bored, excited, inspired? Maybe your responses change at different points of the film. What's making you feel that way? And what's your overall feeling by the time it's all over.