Production Critique

**Objective:** To formally reflect and critique a play or musical as an audience member.

**Criteria:**

* Use MLA formatting.
* Submit electronically via turnitin.com due by Friday after an SHS show closes. Turn in your ticket (with your name written in ink upon it) in class.
* Do: Support all your opinions with valid reasons. Be sincere. Be objective, fair, and constructive.
* Don’t: Don't be overly critical. Approach a performance with an attitude of enjoying it. Don't be arrogant. Be humble, kind, and remember the challenges of doing live theatre.
* At a minimum, address the following questions:

*Short* **Paragraph 1 - The Basics**

* Introduce the name of the play, author, and date of performance you saw.
* What do you think is the overall message of this play? Why do you think this?

**Paragraphs 2 & 3 - The Acting**

* React to two of the performers in the play. Be sure to use their names.
  + Were they believable: true to the play, the production, and the theatrical conditions?
  + *You should respond to the following questions with more than “yes” or “no” answers.*
    - VOICE: How did the actor use their volume, tempo, vocal quality, and articulation?
    - BODY: How did the actor use gestures and movement?
    - EMOTIONS: Were the emotions true to the character?
    - FACIAL EXPRESSIONS: How did the actor use their face?
    - PROJECTION: How did the actor project orally and visually to the audience?

**Paragraph 4 - The Direction & Design**

* Describe a clear choice that the director made in terms of blocking (moving the characters around the stage). How did this impact your audience as an audience member?
  + For the musical critique (which will be after the Directing Unit in this class), be specific with your observations.
* *You should respond to the following questions with more than “yes” or “no” answers.*
  + SET: Did the set establish an understandable mood and background for the play?
  + LIGHTS: Did the lighting convey the proper mood, emphasis, and illumination?
  + COSTUMES & MAKE UP: Were the costumes and makeup true to the characters?
  + SOUND: How did the sound effects and music contribute to the show's mood?
  + Overall, what did you think about the total production design?

*Short* **Paragraph 5 - Your Reaction**

* What was your opinion of the play? Avoid generic phrases like: “two thumbs up” or “3 out of 5 stars”

This assignment meets National Arts Theatre Standards: Re7.1, Re8.1, Re9.1