Writing a Movie Review

Steps to writing a movie review

1. Watch the movie and take notes of both major and minor events and characters. It's a mistake to rely on the power of your memory only; there's always something we overlook or forget.
2. Carry out some research. Look for details about the locations, plot, characterization, or historic events that served as an inspiration for the movie (if applicable). The research should provide more depth to the review.
3. Analyze the movie after you watch it. Don't start working on the review if you aren't sure you understand the film. Evaluate the movie from beginning to end. Re-watch it if you find some parts confusing. You can't write a review about a film that you don't understand!
4. Draft an outline before you write to give the review direction.
5. Include claims about the movie. If the plot has holes, then mention an example of a situation or a scene when that was evident. Also, if the characters are poorly developed or if they were poorly cast, that can have a negative effect on the movie's quality. Provide examples when commenting on dialogue, locations, plot, cinematography, the musical score...any aspect of the movie that adds to or detracts from its overall appeal. If you want the reader to agree with you, it's essential to back up your claims with evidence.

Movie elements to consider while writing a review:

- Analysis of the plot elements like the rising action and climax.
- Creative elements:
    - Dialogue
    - Characters
    - Use of color
    - Camera techniques / cinematography
    - Mood
    - Tone
    - Symbols
    - Costumes
    - Sound effects / musical score
    - Casting

This guide is a heavily edited version of a page from edusson.com.