Play Review

Purpose: This outline is intended to help you write a five-paragraph essay reviewing an actual performance that you have seen.

Directions: Do not attempt to answer all questions given. They are intended to stimulate your thinking. This is not a checklist.

Remember to use minor supports in the body paragraphs. Do not just state your reaction, tell specifically what you liked or disliked and why.

I. Introductory Paragraph: Any introductory technique may be used (funnel, anecdote, quote), but the introduction must include:
   a. The author’s name
   b. The title of the play (in italics)
   c. The place of performance
   d. A unifying thesis (related to your overall assessment of the play; make it focused; avoid writing an unfocused thesis such as “Waiting for Godot is an excellent play.”)

II. 1st Body Paragraph: How effective was the setting for you?
   a. What type of theater was it?
   b. Were the scenery and props too much? Too little?
   c. How was the costuming? Was it authentic? Tacky?
   d. How was the lighting? Did it add to the drama? Was the lighting too much? Too little?
   e. Did you know where you were? In what time period?

III. 2nd Body Paragraph: How believable and interesting was the plot and its conflicts?
   a. Were you aware of internal conflicts? External? Were the conflicts apparent from the beginning, or were they slowly revealed?
   c. Was it involving? Did it “grab” you? Was the comedy funny? The drama gripping?
   d. Was the plot satisfactorily resolved?

IV. 3rd Body Paragraph: How effective were the actors?
   a. Where they dynamic? Did they make the characters live?
   b. Did they stay in character? Consistently?
   c. Did they interact well together?
   d. Was any one character particularly well cast? Miscast?

V. Conclusion: What is your overall evaluation of the play? Would you recommend this play to another sophomore? Why or why not?

DO NOT FORGET TO STAPLE OR PAPERCLIP YOUR TICKET STUB AND PROGRAM TO THE REVIEW. THESE ITEMS ARE PROOF THAT YOU COMPLETED THE ASSIGNMENT.