

TOP TIPS FOR FILMING A REVIEW

Before you even pick up a camera, it is very important to plan and write your review taking real care over what you say. Visit the Resources pages of the Young Film Critic website for guidance on writing your review: <http://www.youngfilmcritic.org/resources>

Remember, even a filmed review has a word limit: no more than 250 words, for 11-19 year olds and no more than 200 words for 7-11 year olds. The finished review should be no longer than two minutes in length.

1. Your written review will now be your script. Read it through several times, slowly and out loud, getting someone to listen if you can. Are any points unclear? Are there any parts you want to emphasise, perhaps with voice or gesture? Put marks on your written review to remind you of these ideas.
2. Find a location to film your review. Aim for a quiet, well-lit space, preferably where you can control the levels of light and keep external noise – and unwanted ‘extras’ – out of your film. Reflections in windows and pictures can easily be missed when filming so be sure to detect these hazards in advance.
3. In order to achieve the best possible picture quality, try to use a tripod or some sort of stabilising device. This will help to prevent a shaky image and also produce a more professional looking finish.
4. Look into the camera as you are speaking, rather than at a piece of paper. It is a good idea to print your ‘script’ in very large font, landscape, on several sheets of paper. These will be your ‘cue cards’. If you are lucky enough to have a camera person, you can get them to hold these just above or below the camera, changing between them at the right time.
5. During your delivery speak slowly and clearly. Take adequate pauses and announce, but also be careful not to make your delivery seem ‘forced’. If you are nervous about filming try doing a few dry runs (when the camera is not actually recording) and limit the amount of people in the room with you.

6. Make sure you are passionate and animated in your delivery. Make your audience believe your feelings about the film. Think about how you could use intonation, movement and gesticulation in order to emphasise your feelings.
7. Make sure there is minimal background noise. This may be harder if you are filming in a school, but noises such as coolers, radiators, or background talking often become very noticeable on film so do your best to choose the quietest place possible!
8. Look out for continuity. This basically means that between shots do not change your hair or clothes for example, as this will create a disjointed piece.
9. After you have finished filming your review you will probably need to do some editing. This is the part when all the elements of your review can come together. Edit your piece neatly and make sure the clips that you put next to each other flow correctly without any glitches, ensuring the sound is in 'sync' with the visuals. Please remember NOT to use trailers or clips from the film in your review, as this will breach copyright.
10. Finally, have someone impartial watch your review before you submit it. Someone who is not involved in the project may have a keener eye to any mistakes that you may have missed. This will work in the same way as 'proof reading' for a piece of writing and will guarantee that your piece is as good as it possibly can be.

When you are finished, you can upload your entry to Film Education's Competitions website:
<http://www.filmeducation.org/competitions/upload.php>

Or you can send the review and a completed entry form to us in the post, in DVD format, to:

Film Education
Young Film Critic Competition 2011
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