

How to write a film review

1 Do you ever read film reviews? Write a few lines explaining why/why not.

A good movie review should entertain, persuade and inform, providing an original opinion without giving away too much of the plot. A great movie review can be a work of art in its own right. Therefore, it is a very demanding task, to say the least, even for native speakers.

Film reviews can be usually divided into three parts:

1. a brief summary of the plot;
2. comments on direction/ acting/editing/special effects/soundtrack;
3. conclusion.

2 Translate the following excerpts taken from film reviews to understand the type of language used and underline adjectives of opinions.

- a. With *Inglourious Basterds* Tarantino delivers a film that is simultaneously gripping, frustrating, shamelessly funny, undeniably tasteless and finally exhilarating.
- b. With a film-making style as shaggy and unkempt as its director, *Bowling for Columbine* has a few sequences who don't work.
- c. *Persepolis* comics, like Art Spiegelman's *Maus* before it, helped the continuing process of "legitimizing" the graphic novel as a genuine art form. This film adaptation preserves the spirit of the comics, deftly fusing the political and the personal into a universal coming-of-age story told with warmth.
- d. Daniel Craig was an inspired choice, his rough-hewn physicality recalling Sean Connery – to whom he would eventually be favourably compared – but his greatest asset was his acting talent. He succeeded admirably in his stated aim to give the character more reality and emotional depth.

3 Write a paragraph on a film you liked, stating the reasons why you liked or didn't like it using the following adjectives of opinions:

amusing • exciting/boring • easy-to-follow/
hard-to-follow • convincing/unconvincing •
compelling • gripping • moving • violent

