

Play Reflection Example

Guidelines:

Paragraph 1 - Introduce the performance, talk about all the different elements that come together to make a play happen (lines, blocking, facial expressions, gestures, sound, lighting, props, costumes)

Paragraph 2 - Discuss elements of the performance that were effective, give specific examples and explain **why** they were effective in your opinion.

Paragraph 3 - Discuss elements of the performance that were **not** effective, give specific examples and explain **why** they were **not** effective in your opinion. Make sure to offer suggestions

When giving feedback, make sure to use appropriate sentence starters (look for examples in the **speaking etiquette** covered in class) and include each of the following three tips for each positive element that you highlight.

1. What **scene** are you talking about? (Approximate if you're not sure. For example, you can say "in the dining room scene.." or "near the end of the filming)
2. What was the good **element**? Good facial expressions, expressive body language, articulation (speaking clearly, able to be understood), improvisation, dynamics, etc.
3. How/**why was it good**? - Go into specifics, name individual characters that display the element you're talking about.

EX: **In the middle of scene three, I think that the facial expressions** of many characters were highly effective. For instance, **Colonel Mustard's wide eyes** convincingly **portrayed** the guest's **state of shock** as his indiscretions were being exposed by Wadsworth and Miss Scarlet.

The following example is not a finished product and should not be copied word for word. It is intended to give you some insight into how I would like you to format your reflection and give you some ideas about what to include.

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Our class has been working on a performance of *Clue*, a play adapted from the screenplay of the 1985 eponymous film. *(Summarize some of the steps we went through before filming)* We began our rehearsals with a cold read of the scripts and later, we decided who would play each role. Next, we practiced blocking for each scene and continued through a series of rehearsals during the following weeks. Finally, we gathered materials for props and costumes and then began filming our performance.

(Give a sentence to introduce the pros of filming) During the filming, there were many exemplary moments. In scene two, for example, the actors' facial expressions were fantastic. This was most noticeable during the closeup by the door. Every actor had their eyes and mouths contorted differently to represent the emotion that their specific character was feeling. In one of the final scenes, improv was particularly well implemented. The actors combined lines from two different scenes to logically move the action forward. The improv was successful because the actors remained in role and managed to keep the scene moving ... *(you would have two to three more examples than me, then add a conclusion statement)* All in all, the actors put on a great performance with many effective elements.

While there were several positive components of the class' performance, there were still some areas for improvement. Most notably, memorization, positioning and gesture could have been refined. In scene four there were several members of the cast who didn't know all of their lines. This led to some confusion with cues for other performers. Another issue that we encountered was people moving around when they should have been staying frozen. People needed to be fed their lines because they weren't all memorized, and this meant that all actors needed to remain in the same position for continuity. Some people were fidgeting and did not manage to stay in the same place for all of the takes. Actors also struggled with body position in scene three, where backs were turned and individuals were blocked from view of the camera. ... We faced several challenges during the performance, but it also provided us with the opportunity for growth. *(You could always turn this next section into a fourth conclusion paragraph outlining all the possible causes and solutions for problems.)* Although there are several things that I would change about the performance, the causes of many problems are easily identifiable and just as easily fixable. Many problems arose from the limited time provided for preparation. With more rehearsals, blocking in our tight quarters could have become more smooth. Also, actors would have been more likely to have all their lines memorized. Specifically, we could have devoted more time to partner work and improved on our knowledge of cues. Overall, despite the challenges faced, I am happy with our efforts and have learned a lot through the process.