

# Critical Review Template

Use this to guide your writing of your critical review.

**Title:** Critical Review of *A Driving Beat*

## Introduction

- Name of the play, playwright and a brief plot overview (one sentence)
- A thesis statement expressing your overall opinion about the play

## Summary of the Play

Briefly describe the central conflict or plot, focusing on the most important moments without giving away spoilers.

## Analysis

**Character Development:** Choose one or two characters to analyze. Discuss their arc throughout the play and how the actors brought them to life.

**Themes:** Identify the key themes of the play. How did the playwright address these themes? Were they explored in a way that felt authentic and thought-provoking?

**Performances:** Which actors stood out to you? How did they portray their characters? Were their performances effective in conveying the play's emotional depth?

**Production Design:** Consider the set, lighting, costumes, and sound. How did these elements enhance the story telling? Were they used creatively to convey mood or theme?

## Personal Reflection

Reflect on how the play impacted you. Did it challenge your views or evoke any strong emotions? What part of the play left a lasting impression on you?

## Conclusion

Summarize your overall thoughts. Would you recommend this play to others? Why or why not?

## Grading Criteria

**Content & Analysis:** Did the review demonstrate a deep understanding of the play's characters, themes, and production elements? Did the student provide specific examples and evidence from the play to support their points?

**Writing and Organization:** Was the review clearly organized with an introduction, analysis, and conclusion? Was it well-written, with attention to grammar, punctuation, and style?

**Personal Insight:** Did the student reflect thoughtfully on their own emotional and intellectual response to the play?

## Extension (optional)

**Digital Review Platforms:** If available, students could publish their reviews on a school blog, class website, or other platforms where they could share their insights with a wider audience.

**Review Comparison:** After writing their reviews, students can compare their analysis with professional reviews of the play (if available). This would help them understand how their critiques align with or differ from those of professional critics.

You may share your reviews with us at FIM! If you choose to, please have your teacher submit your review, along with any others from your class, to [asauvie@thefim.org](mailto:asauvie@thefim.org)

**Thank you and I hope you enjoyed the play!**