

A Life of Crime: Film/TV Review

Your university's film club is asking for reviews of films or TV shows on the topic of crime. Maybe you've seen a thrilling heist movie, a dark film noir or a TV show about the nefarious adventures of a mafia family. Your review should comment on the plot of the film/show, the quality of the script and acting and recommend the film/show to a specific demographic or warn a specific group against watching it. **C1: 220-260 words C2: 280-320 words**

Useful Language

<p>Introduction: Use a story hook:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Throw the reader right into the middle of the action. ● Speak directly to the reader using the 2nd person. <p>Picture the scene: you're behind the wheel of the getaway car listening to your favourite funk song, while a group of your friends are pulling off the most daring heist in the history of Los Angeles. Your heart is pumping as you hear the sound of gunshots behind you.... Don't worry, it's not real, it's a scene from Baby Driver, the new blockbuster action comedy from director Edgar Wright.</p>	<p>Forms and conventions of a review: Title: for films/books/restaurants use the name/title or if think up an imaginative title using an idiom/expression. Register: Informal/neutral Use: all your colourful vocabulary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Phrasal verbs. ● Idioms. ● Impressive collocations. ● Film/TV specific vocabulary. ● Descriptive language.
<p>Vocab to describe specific parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a slow start / a gentle introduction /gripping climax / nail-biting conclusion / cliff-hanger ending/ a shocking twist in the tail <p>Setting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The film/show is set in _____(place/time) ● The action takes place in _____ (place/time) ● the present day (now) ● an alternate reality where vampires / wizards walk the earth ● a sleepy village in the USA ● the bustling city of New York <p>Plot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The plot centres around / focuses on (the adventures / lives of _____) ● The plot follows the adventures of _____(character name) ● I found the plot to be a little bit implausible/far-fetched ● ... sets off an amazing chain of events <p>Characters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Villain / hero / heroine / anti-hero / main character / protagonist ● The characters are believable / well-crafted / a bit 2-dimensional. 	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Not for the faint-hearted ● an unmitigated disaster (bad film) ● It was like watching paint dry (boring) ● gripping film (exciting) ● A blockbuster (big commercial film: Marvel) ● Spectacular set-pieces (main action scenes) ● It is clearly heavily influenced by the films of... ● It has received glowing reviews from... ● a white-knuckle ride / a tearjerker / a laugh a minute <p>Actors/Actresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● It boasts an all-star cast of... ● XXX is an accomplished actor ● XXX gives a dazzling display of his/her talents ● XXX gives a polished performance in the role of... ● XXX is cast in the role of XXX ● XXX gives a(n) (un)convincing performance as XXX <p>Impact on viewer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●made a lasting impression on me. ●brought a tear to my eye ● I was on the edge of my seat (exciting) ● (failed) to hold my attention ● The director/author evoked a magical atmosphere ● ... awakened my interest in... ● Capture the audience's imagination. ● The film is let down by a clichéd script.
<p>Killer Lines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Were I to sum up ... in one word, it would be... ● ... left a lot to be desired (wasn't good enough) ● ...more than lives up to the hype (is as good as everyone says it is) ● ... is by far and away the best ... you're likely to ... this year ● ... really raises the bar (sets a higher standard) ● ... sets the benchmark for other (others will be judges against how good it is) ● ... ticks all the right boxes ● ... holds up well in comparison with ... ● ...comes off badly in comparison with ... 	<p>Language checklist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have you included? ● An inversion (not only/no sooner/seldom) ● An inverted conditional (Were we to...) ● A participle clause (Being.../Having gone...) ● A double comparative (The more we... the more) ● A cleft sentence (What is most crucial is...) ● Idioms ● Phrasal verbs