

Close Performance Analysis:

This is a just a 4th Performance Response on steroids...

Choose one of the plays from our list of shows to see. **NOTE: You cannot double dip. If you choose Suessical as your Close Performance Analysis it will not count as one of your 3 regular performance analyses. YOU WILL BE SEEING a minimum of 4 PLAYS OUTSIDE OF CLASS this semester.**

PART 1: Read THE PLAY. Write a response to the play before watching the performance. Read the script before you see the show (see Miz B about getting a copy of the script to read.) Read the script in one sitting if you can. Try to avoid distraction. I would suggest getting a group of people who are doing this assignment together to read it out loud as that is how plays are intended to be digested. **BEFORE SEEING THE PLAY** write your response. Did the play engage you emotionally? Intellectually? Then explore what about the play caused that reaction. Did you identify with any certain character? Did you find yourself rooting for or against anyone/ anything? Did you find yourself curious to know more? Were you not engaged? If so what about the play didn't interest you/ kept you out. Were you able to "see" any parts of the play, the characters, the world, the action? If so what did you see? Are there any resonating images the play left you with?

PART 2: Analyze a Scene: (*following guidelines for Scene Analysis*) Hand in to me.

Choose the character you are most drawn to or would like to play. And then pick one 2-3 pg. scene to analyze using the guidelines we will establish in class together. Pick a scene with at least two characters, but no more than three. Make sure the scene has a clear conflict. Go for really active scenes. I would suggest the turning point, the reveal of the big secret, the breaking point, the admission of guilt, love, etc. Make it more fun for yourself by going for the big dramatic stuff.

PART 3: Go Watch the play. Write a Response.

This project ***must be done in sequence***. You are **NOT ALLOWED** SEE THE PLAY BEFORE DOING YOUR ANALYSIS. And the play will not run any longer than scheduled just to wait for your to do your homework. So plan ahead. Bring your journal to the production and take notes during intermission and just after the performance (don't write notes during the performance please). In particular watch "your scene." How did they do? Describe without judgment what you saw? Were the actors making clear active choices? Could you describe what your interpretation is of "your" characters actions and objections as they were performed? Did they work with clear objectives, actions, and obstacles? How did all this compare with the analysis work you did? Was the scene what you expected? If not, how was it different? Did you learn anything new that you hadn't noticed in your analysis? How was their voice work: Breath support, diction, projection? Was their physical work effective? Staging, special relationships, architecture, behavioral gesture? Overall do you feel it was a successful performance? Discuss the reason for your opinion.