



DIGITAL THEATRE+

EVALUATION TEMPLATE

Performance

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This pack shows you how to write an evaluation of a performance or performances in a play.

In this pack, you will find:

- [Performance Evaluation Essay – Graphic Organiser Instructions](#)
 - [Performance Evaluation Essay – Graphic Organiser](#)
 - [Performance Evaluation Essay – Guidance](#)
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PERFORMANCE EVALUATION ESSAY GRAPHIC ORGANISER INSTRUCTIONS

In preparation for completing the **Performance Evaluation Essay**, use the chart below as a notetaking guide to help you to write your essay.

Watch your chosen play or scene. If it's a short scene, you may want to just watch it all the way through once without taking notes, then watch it again taking notes as you go. If it's a longer scene or play, you can take notes on the first watch. Remember, you can pause and skip back if you need to.

As you watch, pay close attention to what the actors are doing, the choices they make and the techniques they use. What do they do that makes the scene so effective, and why?

Choices are the various options an actor has in order to vocally, physically, emotionally, and psychologically create and present a believable character based on information from the text. An actor may try many different choices until they find the right one to communicate to the audience.

Key choices and techniques actors use to portray characters believably and which you should be looking for are often to do with:

- Voice
- Body
- Internalising their character
- Maintaining a character's objectives.

VOICE

You will be looking for vocal variety used by the actor(s) and how the vocal choices made impact the performance.





TECHNIQUE	EXPLANATION	POSSIBLE EFFECTS
Articulation	The act of speaking clearly; pronouncing consonants, vowels, syllables and words distinctly.	What effect does it have if an actor mumbles, or stammers, or over-pronounces certain words?
Pitch	The height or depth to which the tone of voice is raised or lowered; actors use pitch to help them express particular emotions.	A high pitch might suggest excitement or fear, or that the character is young.
Pronunciation	For example: accents, dialects.	The way in which a character speaks can provide information on their social and economic status as well as level of education.
Rate	The speed at which an actor speaks his/her lines.	Slow speech might suggest uncertainty, thinking things through.
Vocal quality	The characteristics of a voice, such as shrill, nasal, raspy, breathy, booming, etc.	





Volume	How loudly or softly an actor speaks.	Volume often reflects the characters' emotions.
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For some examples of actors using their voices in interesting and effective ways, you might want to look at:

- [*Cyrano de Bergerac*](#), BroadwayHD (0:01:44–0:14:54)
- [*Othello*](#), Digital Theatre, Act 3, Scene 3 (1:08:09–1:14:56)

BODY

Pay attention to how the actor(s) use their body. What physical choices have they made and how does it impact their performance? How are they communicating non-verbally (without words)?

TECHNIQUE	EXPLANATION	POSSIBLE EFFECTS
Physical style	The use of the body, including posture, movements, and gestures, which is appropriate to the overall style and period of the production.	Appropriate physical style helps create and maintain the world of the play.
Movement	How and where the actors move on stage and how they interact with other actors.	Touching other actors or avoiding touching them indicates the kind of relationship the characters have.





Body position	The orientation of the actor to the audience and other actors (e.g., full front, right profile, left profile).	Where is the character's focus? What is their relationship (if any) to the audience?
Eye contact		A lot of eye contact can suggest intimidation.
Facial expressions		Do they match the words being spoken? If not, is the character being deceitful?
Gesture	A movement, usually of the hand or arm, as a means of dramatic expression.	
Use of the stage and the space		Just using a small area of the stage might represent a lack of confidence, or feeling trapped.
Use of physical levels	For example, sitting, lying, standing, or being below or above the stage (for example, on a balcony).	A higher position might represent power or high status.





For some examples of actors using their bodies in interesting and effective ways, you might want to look at:

- ***Between the Lines***, CinePlay (0:14:39–0:16:28)
- ***Much Ado About Nothing***, Broadway Digital Archive (0:06:40–0:08:55)
- ***Things I Know to Be True***, Digital Theatre (1:16:00–1:18:00)

INTERNALISATION OF CHARACTER

You will be looking for ways in which the actor has created a fully realised and believable character.

TECHNIQUE	EXPLANATION	POSSIBLE EFFECTS
Active listening	An actor paying attention to what is being said and done during a scene as if the character is hearing the lines for the first time.	Particularly important when something is surprising or uncertain for the character
Consistency of actions	For example, a way of talking or standing	
Spontaneous reactions	An actor appearing to be living in the moment as if the action has not been rehearsed and performed many times	Particularly in emotional scenes





<p>Maintaining a character's motivations</p>	<p>A fully believable character will be making choices and behaving as a person in real life does, based on the things they want and don't want.</p>	
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For some examples of actors who have internalised their character, you might want to look at:

- [*Antigone*](#), BBC Studios, (0:01:36–0:04:15)
- [*Funny Girl*](#), Digital Theatre, (1:03:49–1:11:29)
- [*Othello*](#), Digital Theatre, Act 3, Scene 3, (1:08:09–1:14:56)





**PERFORMANCE EVALUATION ESSAY
GRAPHIC ORGANISER**

As you watch your scene or play and think about it after viewing, complete this outline on the following page using examples of the acting choices and techniques used by the actors, as well as what the actor communicated when it was used.

Play: _____

Playwright: _____

Year performed: _____

Theatre name: _____

Theatre company: _____

Director: _____





ACTING TECHNIQUE	CHARACTER/ACTOR	DESCRIPTION AND EFFECT	WHEN USED
<i>Voice - volume</i>	<i>Othello/Victor Oshin</i>	<i>Oshin varies the volume of his voice to show how Othello is confused and upset by Iago. His emotions change rapidly from anger to uncertainty.</i>	<i>Act 3, Scene 3, talking with Iago</i>





PERFORMANCE EVALUATION ESSAY GUIDANCE

INSTRUCTIONS

You will now use your completed Performance Evaluation Graphic Organiser to write your evaluation essay.

Make your points clear, thoughtful and specific, and support each point with examples from the performance. Remember your reader is a generally intelligent person, though one who perhaps is not as familiar with the scene or play as you are.

Here are two suggestions for approaches and titles:

Acting Techniques

Choose three acting techniques that you identified and discuss their impact within the play.

Hint: Choose the three techniques for which you have most examples.

Actor Use of Techniques

Choose three actors who impressed you with their performance and explain the choices and techniques each used throughout the play.

Hint: This should include at least two techniques for each actor. The techniques do not have to be the same for each actor. As a matter of fact, choosing different techniques used by actors 1, 2 and 3 will illustrate a more complete understanding of the studied techniques.

GUIDANCE

Below you will find specific guidance on how to format and construct your essay. Remember, this is guidance only. You may find that your essay





requires more paragraphs to accurately cover the example you are writing about.

Hint: Use the suggested structure to make an essay plan before you start writing.

ESSAY OUTLINE

INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH: INTRODUCTION OF THE PLAY AND YOUR THESIS (SAME FOR BOTH TITLES)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In this paragraph you will introduce the name of the play and playwright, give a brief statement about the main idea (theme) of the play, and finally, state the three areas/topics you will be discussing.	
BODY PARAGRAPH #1:	
<p>Topic Choice 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce the first acting technique you will be discussing.• Describe the technique used, the names of actors and characters who used it, and the specific moments in the play when this was used.• Describe the technique used, the names of actors and characters who used it,	<p>Topic Choice 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduce the first actor you will be discussing.• Describe or explain one of the techniques used and a specific moment in the play when this was used.• Describe or explain another of the techniques used and a specific moment in the play when this was used.





and the specific moments in the play when this was used.

BODY PARAGRAPH #2:

Topic Choice 1:

- Introduce the second acting technique you will be discussing.
- Describe the technique used, the names of actors and characters who used it and the specific moments in the play when this was used.
- Describe the technique used, the names of actors and characters who used it, and the specific moments in the play when this was used.

Topic Choice 2:

- Again, introduce the second actor and character.
- Describe or explain one of the techniques used and a specific moment in the play when this was used.
- Describe or explain another of the techniques used and a specific moment in the play when this was used.

BODY PARAGRAPH #3:

Topic Choice 1:

- Introduce the final acting technique you will be discussing.
- Describe the technique used, the names of actors and characters who used it and the specific moments in the play when this was used.

Topic Choice 2:

- Finally, introduce the third actor and character.
- Describe or explain one of the techniques used and a specific moment in the play when this was used.
- Describe or explain another of the techniques used and





<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Describe the technique used, the names of actors and characters who used it and the specific moments in the play when this was used.	<p>a specific moment in the play when this was used.</p>
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CONCLUSION PARAGRAPH: SUMMARISE YOUR ARGUMENTS AND RESTATE THESIS (SAME FOR BOTH TOPICS)

- Wrap up/summarise the arguments of the body paragraphs.
- Give your opinion of the performances and how they impacted your enjoyment and understanding of the play.

