

Evaluating different reviews of your favourite film

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Teacher Sheet

Task

Your students will be given the following task.

You are going to reflect on what makes a good film review.

In order to do so, you are going to select a film, find different video or text reviews of it online (the reviews can be produced by independent viewers or by film critics), and then assess those reviews to find out what constitutes a film review. Then, make a list of essential qualities and requirements for this genre.

Website

Several platforms/websites provide a compilation of existing film reviews. These sites allow quick access to more than one review for a particular film.

For example:

- <https://www.imdb.com/>: interface available in English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish. If you search for external/critic reviews, you can access film critic reviews in many different languages (ideal for working on plurilingual and multicultural aspects);
- <https://www.metacritic.com/> in English;
- <https://www.allocine.fr/> in French;
- <https://www.criticker.com> in English.

But also:

- <https://cineuropa.org/>: European portal dedicated to cinema and audiovisual content, available in English, French, Italian and Spanish.

Websites featuring film reviews can be found in many different languages.

CEFR level - For B1 level and above

Objectives

Digital citizenship and literacy

	Dimensions covered in task	(Potential) specific objectives
Digital citizenship	Ethical and responsible	Assessing the power of words produced online and their impact.
Technological literacy		Navigating review sites, changing the interface language, understanding ratings.
Meaning-making literacy	Media literacy	Being aware of the conventions regarding film reviews in video or text forms.
	Knowledge of how information is generated and disseminated	Understanding how film reviews are created and how overall film ratings are generated.

Main language activity

- Written reception: reading film reviews.
- Written production: writing of a list of criteria for the film review genre.

Plurilingual / intercultural aspects

You can ask learners to use the various languages they speak to read and compare film reviews.

You may work on intercultural aspects with this task by asking learners to consider the cultural context in which the film review is produced and reflecting on possible differences in this genre depending on the cultural context.

Possible steps

Learners can be asked to complete the following steps:

- Select a film that they would like to read reviews on (it would be useful if they already know the film).

- Find different reviews of that film. They can consider reading reviews in several different languages and exploring different genres of reviews, such as those written by viewers versus film critics, and written versus video reviews.
- Check if ratings are available with the reviews and reflect on how these ratings work and who provides them.
- Carry out a brainstorming session discussing what they expect to find in a film review (plot, film genre, key features of the film...).
- Read some of the reviews and consider the ones they prefer and the reason for this choice.
- Make a list of criteria for good reviews, ranking them according to how important they are. They can think about the following questions to guide their work:
 - What information is given in a film review?
 - What are the common features in all reviews?
 - How do the authors of the reviews managing to give a balanced critique?
- If this activity has been carried out individually or in small groups, they can compare these criteria with others in the group/class.
- You can also discuss whether these features and criteria can be applied to other reviews (books, concerts, music, series, shows, plays...).
- A list of the most important criteria for a good film review can be created by the whole class following discussions.

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Student Sheet

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CEFR level - For B1 level and above

Objectives

Digital citizenship and literacy

While completing this task, you can learn:

- how to make the most of (film) review sites: where to find information, understand how rating systems work and how to access different reviews (users versus critics, reviews in different languages and from different sources);
- what the main features and conventions of (film) reviews are: what is appropriate (or not) to write in a (film) review and how to produce a constructive argument to post online;
- about the impact of different media formats (written or video), especially with regards to (film) reviews;
- about the power of words online and the impact of film reviews.

Plurilingual / intercultural aspects

You can use the various languages you speak to compare film reviews in different languages. Are they similar?

When working on this task, you may consider the cultural context in which the film review is produced and reflect on possible differences in this genre, depending on the cultural context.

Hints

Work on language-related aspects

You can read reviews about the same films in several languages. This will help you build your understanding of the main themes/characters/plot of the film, thus making it easier to read reviews in other languages. If you have difficulty understanding specific words, you can use an online dictionary or machine translation tool to understand full sentences.

For you to think about

After completing this task, you can reflect on the following questions:

- Did you ever think about how film reviews and film ratings were produced? Is this task going to affect the way you use film reviews?
- Are there significant differences between various styles of film reviews (in different languages or media support)?

- What is appropriate (or not) to write in a film review?
- Are all reviews (books, concerts, music, series, shows, plays...) based on the same principles?
- Would you consider posting a review online?