



# WRITING A REVIEW

## What is being tested?

- Your engagement with the reader, the quality of your ideas and how well you present them.
- Your ability to be evaluative when writing.
- Your ability to use sentencing, grammar and vocabulary.

## Structuring a review:

1. Give your review a **title**. Use something interesting or catchy if you're able to.
2. Start with a focused **opening paragraph** outlining the topic and your overall opinions.
3. Include two or three **main paragraphs** in which you include more details and ideas about the strengths and weaknesses of the topic.
4. **Conclude** your review. Sum up your views and give an overall recommendation/rating.

## Planning your content:

Before you begin, read the task carefully. It is really helpful if you **plan out** what you want to cover. Ask yourself questions to help generate some ideas for your work.

1. What is the topic?
2. What do I know about it?
3. What are my views about it?
4. What do I like/dislike/appreciate?
5. Can I compare it to something similar?
6. Do I want others to watch/read it?

## Definition:

A review is an evaluation of a given topic. If you are asked to write a review, you must give a range of personal opinions on the given subject.

## Things to consider when writing a review:

A good review not only gives information about the topic, but also gives a range of well supported personal views and opinions.




### Think about:

- how you feel about the topic and why – give strong opinions and add details to explain how you feel
- the strengths and weaknesses you are able to share with your reader
- including a range of details/facts or evidence to support your ideas
- including specific details (names of people, places, actors, songs, etc.) as this makes your review more credible and interesting
- including a clear conclusion in which you draw together your views and give a final opinion/overview
- whether your review will be positive or negative.

## TOP TIPS:

- ★ Stay focused – constantly weigh up the thing you are reviewing.
- ★ Use comparisons to add more weight to your points.
- ★ Use parenthesis (extra information in brackets) to add extra opinions and a clear viewpoint.
- ★ Think about your tone – confide in the reader so they trust you.
- ★ Ask questions and then make the answer seem like the only option.
- ★ Give plenty of reasons to support your opinions.

## Writing a review – tasks:

-  Write a review for a teenage magazine of a book, film or TV programme/series that you have enjoyed in the last year and why it might appeal to others of your age.
-  Write a review of your school or college based on your experiences there.
-  Write a review of a book, CD or film of your choice.

## Making vocabulary lists helps to improve your vocabulary range:

**Positive:** interesting, vivid, engaging, colourful, imaginative, captivating, mesmerizing, fascinating, remarkable, inventive.

**Negative:** dull, bland, dreary, tedious, uninspiring, lackluster, tired, superficial, awkward, uncomfortable, embarrassing, painful.

## Next steps:

Read a range of different reviews in your own time. Write down what works well. Are there any techniques that you can copy?

Work through some sample tasks and write a plan of what you might include.

Read your teacher's feedback when you next write a review. What do they think you need to do to improve?