

Lesson 6

Television Show Critique - ABC

Instructions and Format Requirements

The two main objectives for writing a critique of a television show are to apply what you have learned so far and to gain some knowledge about how the three major networks – ABC, CBS, and NBC – conduct their programming activities.

Go to the [ABC website](#) and explore all that it offers. Get into some of the business practices of the network, noticing its advertising, how it broadcasts, and what shows it offers.

Step 1: After exploring the site, choose **ONE episode** to watch of any show that the network offers online (preferably one you haven't seen). After watching the show, answer the questions in the order indicated below.

Step 2: In the heading of your paper indicate the show title, episode title, episode number, director, producer, two recurring stars, two guest stars (if applicable), and genre of program in the form of a list. **NOTE:** If you view a news, game, or talk show, please skip Step 3 and complete Steps 4-8. If you watch a sitcom or drama, please complete Steps 3-7 (skipping Step 8).

Step 3: Give a brief description of the show in general and then compose a paragraph giving the narrative of the specific episode. Underline the protagonist, antagonist, complicating action, and resolution/conclusion in your prose. Be sure to include some of the details of the story, applying the narrative course material discussed in Chapter 6. Is the plot believable? Relatable? Realistic? Is the storyline constructed well?

Step 4: What is the target audience here? To what age group does the show appeal? Does anything about the show suggest an attempt to appeal cross-generationally? What about the show leads you to think that it is popular with a certain age bracket?

Step 5: Select two scenes from the show and discuss the style of production as discussed in Chapter 5. Use at least four terms from the textbook, underlining them as you apply them to your examples.

Step 6: What are the characteristics of the music that accompanies the story? How does it add to the action? Does it evoke any kind of emotion?

Step 7: What kind of advertising did the show and/or website use? Are the products selected with the target audience in mind? Select one product that was advertised during the show and apply two terms from Chapter 2 to it. Again, please underline all terms used from the textbook.

Step 8: If you have chosen a talk, game, or news show, please refer to Chapter 4 on broadcast journalism and discuss any bias that may be present. Give specific examples.

Note: You may label your paragraphs with the step numbers if you like. Please remember to give your paper a title that introduces the show and your thoughts about it.

Feel free to send your instructor an email message if you have any questions or if you find anything unclear. Be certain to look at the sample rubric for this assignment. You will be using this format again in later critiques.