**Live Performance Review of *Oliver!* Yr 9/10 Drama**

**Due Date: 5/8/25 Tuesday Week 2**

**Objective:**  
Write a 600 word critical review of *Oliver!* that analyses the major themes explored in the production. Your review should demonstrate your understanding of the show’s messages and how these themes are communicated through the story, characters, and staging.

1. **Introduction**
   * Introduce the production (*Oliver!*), including the basic plot and main characters. Include the name of the show, play wright and who performed it.
   * Briefly mention the key themes of the show, (social inequity, poverty, searching to belong)
   * Provide an engaging opening that encourages your audience to keep reading.
2. **Themes in the Story**
   * Identify one or two key themes in the show
   * Discuss how these themes are developed through the storyline and character interactions.
   * Use specific examples from the script, songs, or scenes to illustrate your points.
3. **Performance Elements**
   * Analyze how the production’s elements (acting, singing, costumes, set, lighting, and direction) support the portrayal of these themes. Pick one area to focus on.
   * For example:
     + How do the costumes reflect the imaginative tone of the story?
     + How does the choreography in numbers like *“Consider yourself”* showcase teamwork and joy?
     + Does the lighting design demonstrate the time period?
4. **Personal Reflection**
   * Reflect on how the themes resonated with you or your audience.
   * Did the production successfully communicate its intended messages? Why or why not?
   * Consider how these themes might relate to real-world issues or personal experiences.
5. **Conclusion**
   * Summarize your overall impression of the production, focusing on its exploration of the themes.
   * Would you recommend this show to others? Why or why not?

**Writing Style:** Use clear and descriptive language. Combine personal opinion with evidence-based analysis.

**Assessment Criteria**

1. **Understanding of Themes:** Clear identification and insightful analysis of themes in the production.
2. **Use of Examples:** Effective use of specific scenes, songs, or performance elements to support your analysis.
3. **Critical Thinking:** Thoughtful reflection on the production’s success in conveying its themes.
4. **Clarity and Organization:** Well-structured review with an engaging introduction, detailed body, and clear conclusion.
5. **Creativity and Engagement:** A review that captures the reader’s interest and offers a unique perspective.

**Tips for Success:**

* Take notes during the performance, focusing on key moments that highlight the themes.
* Refer to the lyrics and dialogue if you can recall or find examples.
* Think critically about how each production element (acting, set, costumes, etc.) supports the show’s messages.

**Rubric**

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| **Criteria** | **WA** | **AE** | **E** | **BE** | **WB** |
| **Understanding of Themes** | Insightfully identifies and thoroughly analyzes key themes; demonstrates a deep understanding of their relevance and impact. | Clearly identifies and analyzes key themes with some depth and relevance. | Identifies themes with basic analysis but lacks depth or clear connections. | Themes are identified but minimally analyzed or poorly connected to the production. | Themes are not identified or analysis is absent. |
| **Use of Examples** | Provides rich, specific examples from the production to strongly support analysis of themes. | Includes specific examples to support analysis, though some connections may lack depth. | Provides general examples with limited connection to themes or analysis. | Examples are vague or minimal and do not clearly support analysis. | Examples are missing or unrelated to the themes. |
| **Creativity and Engagement** | Writing is highly engaging, creative, and uniquely captures the reader’s interest; offers a fresh perspective. | Writing is engaging and shows creativity but lacks a unique perspective or flair. | Writing is somewhat engaging but lacks creativity or strong reader interest. | Writing is unengaging or lacks originality, making it less interesting to read. | Writing is dull, unoriginal, or fails to engage the reader. |