Criticism: Purposes and Process

Purposes of criticism:

- To give your opinion of a performance to advise other audience members.
- To give your opinion of a performance to attract an audience.
- To give your opinion of a performance to inform the production team.

A process of criticism:

- Describe the elements of the experience without interpretation or judgment.

- Analyze how the elements were employed by the various artists and to what effect. What did they do, and how did it make us feel? Consider the artists’ presumed goals, other options the artists might have chosen, and related observations and evaluations by other critics.
• Evaluate the work as a whole. What were the artists trying to do? How well was it done? Was it worth doing?