Writing a review – book and film
Laptop wraps

Teaching notes

This resource, *Writing a review - book and film,* is designed to support Digital Education Revolution – NSW (DER-NSW) program. The resources and tasks are aimed at supporting student use of the DER-NSW laptops in both online and offline classroom environments.

If you have difficulty viewing this resource on the laptop screens you can switch your web browser to full screen mode. With your web browser open press F11 to switch between normal and full screen mode.

For more detailed support on how to use the DER-NSW laptop software referred to in this resource please visit the TaLe Tools+ site. If you have a Department of Education and Training portal identity go to www.tale.edu.au > log in to the Secondary section > Tools+ is a link in the top right of the page. If not, visit the Parents & community section of TaLe and choose the quick link to DER-NSW laptop resources on the right side of the page.

This resource is part of a series on composing texts designed to support students in Stage 5 English. *Writing a book and film review* gives an overview of the features of reviews with a focus on book and film reviews. When students have completed using this resource, they will know how to write a review of a book and a film.

Explore – links to CLI's Crime Films unit (NSW DET only). In the *Film analysis* section, students can look at the features which help to tell the story – the plot and the characters – and the themes of *Ocean's Eleven.*This will help them prepare to write their own review.

Your tasks – students can click on either the icons or the hyperlinked text to view each task in a pop-up window.
Students are asked to read an annotated review of the French film *Tais-toi*, and then to compose a review on a book or film of their choice.They create a mindmap using the SmartArt tools in Microsoft Word. Under each heading, they write some notes to help them compose their review. They can use the student checklist as a guide. When their review is ready, they post it to a blog.
You will have to set up a class blog before the students can start blogging. A great place to set up a class blog is through Edublogs, http://edublogs.org/. This site also contains various video tutorials to guide you through setting up a blog. Another blogging site is www.edmodo.com/ which is a free microblogging site for education. For more information on blogging visit the TaLe Tools+ blogging section.
They can also choose an image to complement their review use Adobe Photoshop Elements to re-size and manipulate the image.
They watch At the Movies and/or the First Tuesday Book Club. They prepare a panel discusion with their classmates of a book they have read or a film they have watched, which they film using the webcam on the laptop. They can then prepare their work using Premiere elements or Presenter. When they have edited their film they can share it with the class (or you might like to suggest that they post it to a place where a wider audience can view it, such as on You Tube).

Teacher resources

These websites may provide useful information about how to write reviews.
Always check websites before recommending them to students.
How to write book reviews:
- The Booth College website has very comprehensive notes on how to prepare and write a book review.
- The Scholastic website has an interactive section on writing book reviews.

How to write film reviews:
- The students are provided with a link to the *How to write a movie review* section of the Northern Territory Schools Film Festival website
- The ReadWriteThink, Angel Fire and essortment websites have useful information on how to write film reviews.

Quality Teaching

This resource supports students to:
- develop deep knowledge and understanding of the language of response and opinion
- use the metalanguage associated with response and opinion
- integrate knowledge by making meaningful connections between texts.