

# How to Write a Music Review on a Concert

By Darren Hunter

Concert reviews require more than just listening to the performance.

Writing a music review on a concert requires going beyond the listening experience. You'll be more than a spectator as you document everything from the energy of the performers to the reaction of the crowd to the emotions that the show elicited. You should also include background information on the history of the entertainers and how they got to this particular point. An effective concert review includes behind-the-scenes observations and can be an emotional and rewarding experience.

## Things You'll Need

- Ticket to concert.
- Notebook and pens.

## Instructions

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Record comprehensive notes before, during and even after the show. Capture in writing moments during the concert that were particularly notable such as audience interaction or poignant statements by the performers. Arrive early and look for opportunities to ask questions to the behind-the-scenes staff or even the musicians themselves. Explain that you are there to review the show since concert reviewers are sometimes permitted backstage.
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Pull together and expound on your bullet points and observations as quickly as possible after the concert. Professor Keith Heimann of the Brookdale College Music Department suggests concentrating your review on the effect of the entire experience. Think about the emotions you felt as well as the effect the show had on the crowd and if, for example, they seemed to leave upbeat or disappointed.
  - 3  
Compose a rough draft of your music review. Expand on your writing by augmenting it with relevant facts such as the history of the band or the effect the venue had on the performance. Be honest about whether you or the audience enjoyed the show. Include specific compositions that stood out or the order of the set list performed. You may actually be able to secure a set list by asking the crew. Include in your review how well the band sounded, if they deviated from studio versions of songs as well as their effect on the crowd.
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Elaborate on the genre of music you are reviewing. Note how this concert may or may not have been groundbreaking or relevant. Include in your review if the show was part of a tour, a reunion or anything interesting about the dynamic during the show of the individual band members. If you are able to speak to the artists, distinguish yourself as a journalist rather than a fan.
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Draw your conclusion and include it in your completed final draft. Determine whether you would see the performers again live and list information about their upcoming shows or projects