

A Critic's Checklist

From How to Watch a Horror Movie by Davey

Before sharing a critique in conversation, in a journal, or in a published review, use the following checklist to make sure your assessment is thorough, fair, and supported.

- ☐ I have separated my personal taste from my critical assessment of the film.
- ☐ I have identified the film's subgenre and the goals of that tradition.
- ☐ I have judged the film by how well it achieves what it set out to do.
- ☐ I have considered the story and structure, including pacing and whether the film's rules remain consistent.
- ☐ I have evaluated the craft, including cinematography, editing, sound design, effects, and performance.
- ☐ I have considered the film's themes and what it is about beneath its surface.
- ☐ I have placed the film in context, including its influences and the moment in which it was made.
- ☐ I have supported my points with specific scenes, shots, or sounds.
- ☐ I have avoided revealing major plot points for readers who have not yet seen the film.
- ☐ I have noted both the film's strengths and the areas where it could have gone further.
- ☐ I have identified the audience most likely to appreciate the film.
- ☐ I have remained open to the possibility that my view of the film may change over time.

Film: _____ Date: _____