

Restaurant Reviews: Written and Visual

These are items that you should identify in the review that was assigned to you. That is, find the described content in the review and note it down. [Not all of them will be present.]

What might be included in a written restaurant review...

The opinion of the reviewer might be reflected in the title of the review

Description of the physical surroundings (in the restaurant itself and, perhaps, surrounding neighborhood)

How the waiters and waitresses are dressed and comport themselves

Explanation of the variety of foods and beverages that are on the menu

Something about the price range of items on the menu and what is considered to be overpriced or a good value

Description (in detail) of what you (the reviewer) ordered; how it was presented, and (most importantly) how it tasted

Description of facilities, such as restrooms or the kitchen (if it's the kind of restaurant where you can see the chefs cooking)

Recommendation of the restaurant; suggestion to avoid it or recommend it with reservations

Further things to note about the review you will be reading:

* Does the reviewer show any special "insider" knowledge of the chefs or the restaurant's plans for the future?

* What is the writing style of the review (flowery language, simple and "to the point," pretentious)?

From the type of restaurant being reviewed and from the style of writing, what would you guess about the readers of this newspaper (their socioeconomic level; their level of education; their tastes)?

* Does the review include a convenient grid so that the reader can see, at a glance, such facts as the restaurant's location, the price range of menu items, wheelchair accessibility, etc.?

* What additional information can you find out about the restaurant from its Website (if it has one)? Does anything on the Website contradict (or contrast with) what's written in the review? If so, describe it.

* What did you learn about the values of the reviewer and cultural values through this review?

* Based on the review, would you and your partner like to try this restaurant? Why or why not?

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*** A Video Review ***

These are the things to note about the “video restaurant review” that was assigned to you:

What is focused on in the review?

How does it differ from the written review in presentation and content?
What features does it have in common with it?

Is the review neutral or partisan?

Are chefs, owners, managers, or restaurant staff featured in the video? Do you think this was helpful in providing useful information about the restaurant or did it make the review too biased?

What is revealed about the reviewer and the culture (both the local culture and/ or ethnic background of the food)?

What criticisms do you have of the video, either concerning the professionalism, production quality or the content?

Notice whether the voices of the speakers are monotonous or have a pleasing emphasis on certain (key) words and phrases. How does that affect your understanding and enjoyment of it?

Are there any expressions or phrases that stand out in your mind after watching this video? What techniques or language would you like to use when filming your own video review?