Theatre Play Review – Cappies Critic 7 Paragraph Format

1. Zinger lead – “If you think singing doves, fairy godmothers, handsome prices, and love at first sight are all, well, “a little medieval”, you might be surprised by the rendition of C*inderella* sweeping onto the stage at Briar Woods High School. Starring a fairy godmother with attitude, a Prince Charming with a brain in his skull, and a Cinderella who is certainly more than just another pretty face, this updated version of the classic musical adds a dash of spice to the sugary storyline.”
2. History of show on broadway, awards won, and brief synopsis – “Originally created for a 1957 television broadcast starring Julie Andrews, Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Cinderella* is tremendously popular among local and high school theatres today.” (If a musical, make sure to mention the lyricist and composer, if a play, state playwright).
3. Overall Production – “Fully entertaining, and especially captivating for younger audiences, Briar Woods production was anchored by the strength not only of enchanting voices on the part of the leads who set about to find true love, but also by supporting leads and an ensemble cast with high energy which earns high marks for bringing the story to life with a modern interpretation to keep contemporary audiences rooting for a happy ending.”
4. The Leads – Name names (spell correctly!), if positive things to say, don’t name names if you have criticisms. “Matt Quist’s good-natured sense of humor shone in the role of the king, whose chemistry with the queen, (Madeline Moore) charmingly complemented the central romance. Quist’s booming voice and well-timed one-liners made him a stand-out character, while Moore’s queen was not above tossing off a crowd-pleasing zinger or two herself.”
5. Supporting Characters and Ensemble – “The step family worked wonderfully off of one another. Alvarez and Neimo’s duet, “Stepsister’s Lament” provided one of the show’s comedic highlights. Ensemble members remained engaged and enthused…”
6. Tech – lights, sound, costumes, props, stage crew, make-up. Pick 2 or 3 elements and describe their major facets and explain why they were successful or problematic.
7. Closer –Mention any social, political, or emotional implications, your impression of the impact on the audience, what they came away with, what type of audience it would be most effective for, and wrap up your final punch with a reference from the dialogue or simply commend the performance. You can’t say what the audience felt, but you can describe their reaction.

Remember,

* bring the program home to spell everyone’s name correctly, including the playwright or composer etc.
* never use negative language to refer to a specific performer or technician, do criticism in a general manner
* don’t rave if it didn’t deserve rave reviews
* use rich nouns and verbs, not too many phony-sounding extraneous adjectives
* have fun with it and be creative!