**Evaluative Writing**

**Play Review for *The Monsters are Due on Maple Street***

**Introduction**

A play review is an essay that briefly tells what a play is about and then indicates how the writer of the review feels about the play. It is a type of evaluative writing, writing which includes an opinion supported by facts and details with the intent to persuade the reader to agree with the point of view of the writer.

**The Task**

After reading the screenplay for "The Monsters Are Due On Maple Street" and watching the video, you are to write a five paragraph persuasive essay, giving and supporting your opinion regarding the play. Before outlining and writing your essay, look at current theatre reviews to see how play reviews are written.

**The Process: Exploring the Web, Creating a Product**

1. Read the information regarding the persuasive essay
2. Read and watch "The Monsters Are Due On Maple Street"
3. Using the suggested websites, look at several play reviews from: <<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/theater/reviews/>>
4. Considering the suggested **evaluative criteria**, outline your 5 paragraph persuasive essay.

* Paragraph 1: identify the subject of the evaluation, briefly summarize it, and express a judgment /opinion (this is your thesis statement)
* Paragraphs 2, 3, 4: state your criteria (reasons) for your judgment and support it through the use of examples, details, definitions, facts, or other supporting evidence
* Paragraph 5: restate your thesis and provide a sense of closure to your essay

1. Using your outline, write your essay, making sure to state your thesis clearly, supporting your opinion with three **evaluative criteria** and illustrating your criteria with examples from the play.

* Suggested **Evaluative Criteria**
* Literary: plot, suspense, setting, dialogue, theme, writer's tools, conflict, resolution, scene,
* characterization, imagery, and sensory language
* Performance: staging (set, scenery, costumes, stage directions, scripting); special effects (sound effects, lighting effects, stunts, trick photography, make-up); acting (casting, body language, vocal expression, facial expression), and dramatic impact

**How You Will Be Graded**

* Your grade may also be based on the following criteria:
  + Does the thesis statement focus the essay by clearly stating the author's overall opinion of the play?
  + Is the play identified and briefly summarized?
  + Does the concluding paragraph restate the thesis and bring the essay to a strong close?
  + Do the middle paragraphs support the thesis statement by focusing on 3 specific evaluative criteria (literary and performance aspects)?
  + Is the focus of the essay consistent, and does each paragraph support the thesis with convincing information?
  + Do the middle paragraphs contain concrete details, specific names, and sufficient examples to fully develop each evaluative criteria?
  + Does the author include any analysis, comparisons, contrasts, or insights as strategies?
  + Is the essay free from mechanical errors; vague relationships between words, phrases, or clauses; run-on sentences and sentence fragments; and spelling errors? Is it legible?
  + Is the essay written in the third person?