Self-check CU3M2 Models of Non-fiction Writing

1. According to the interview, what role does the reviewer's personality play in writing the television review?

The television reviewer should be as factual as possible--there is no space for personality.

The reviewer should create a personality for each review based on the show he or she is reviewing.

Correct Answer: The reviewer shares a lot of her personality in the review since she is basically writing about herself.

Personality doesn't play much of a role in writing television reviews because it is a form of journalism.

2. According to this reviewer, what should the first paragraph in a television review convey?

The plot of the show.

The reviewer's credentials to establish credibility.

Correct Answer: The reviewer's emotions and first impressions of the show.

The basic premise of the show.

3. Television critic, Jaci Stephen, mentions that television review writing is different from theatrical review writing how?

Television reviews are basically just plot summaries.

Correct Answer: Television reviews have to be interesting and amusing in and of themselves.

Television reviews are mostly written for people who have seen the shows rather than trying to get people interested in the shows.

There is pressure in television review writing to write what show producers want you to write.

4. The critic mentions one aspect that is really important in television programming but is rare these days. What is it?

Decent humor

Quality character development

Timely situations

Correct Answer: Good writing

5. What advice did the reviewer receive about writing in general that she believes is correct about writing television criticism?

Revise your introductory paragraph until it has more personality.

Correct Answer: Always cross out your first paragraph at the end and start with your second paragraph.

Save your opinion for the end to keep the reader guessing.

Give as much information in the first paragraph so you can inform your reader before they lose interest.

6. What are important areas of criteria when reviewing a television drama?

Theme and message

Acting and believability

Believability and plot

Correct Answer: Plot and character

7. What danger does the journalist warn other writers against in writing television reviews?

Don't make the review too long: television reviews should be short and to the point.

Don't make too strong of an evaluative judgement.

Don't offend the people you're reviewing or you won't keep your job.

Correct Answer: Don't spend the whole review on plot summary.

8. What does the critic mean by the term "punchy" when describing the language used in successful reviews?

Salacious, lascivious

Humorous, funny

Correct Answer: Forceful, attention grabbing

Methodical, orderly

9. What does the journalist say about changing your mind through the course of writing a review?

Correct Answer: Sometimes you might start out hating a show and then as you write about it realize you liked it.

Rarely does her mind change once she's watched a show all the way through.

First impressions are rarely useful when it comes to watching and reviewing television.

Changing your opinion undermines your credibility as a journalist, so it's best to stick with your first impression.

10. What does the reviewer mention is an important criteria in comedy?

Correct Answer: Style

Acting

Pacing

Tradition

11. What is the challenge in writing for a family newspaper? How does the reviewer handle audience?

Correct Answer: One has to write for all members of the family, youngest and oldest.

One should write for the adult members of the family.

One has to focus on the youngest members of the family to make sure the content is appropriate.

One has to focus on the middle viewers since so much of popular culture is young adult.

12. What kind of research does the reviewer do for each review?

Correct Answer: Taking notes while watching a program.

Looking up actor profiles and performance history.

Looking through the plot summaries in television databases.

Reading television show transcripts and production notes.

13. What similarities are there between writing television reviews and writing other reviews?

All reviews are challenging to write because they require so much research.

Correct Answer: All reviews should catch the reader's attention and keep them reading to the end.

All reviews should focus on facts rather than opinions.

All reviews are a form of product endorsements: another form of advertising.

14. What statement does the reviewer make about writing reviews in general?

Writing reviews is challenging because you have to do so much research.

Writing television reviews is harder than other reviews because there are so many shows to review.

Writing reviews is a hard way to make a living because you might disappoint people.

Correct Answer: Writing reviews is easy because all you have to do is be honest.

15. What surprising first step does the reviewer suggest is the best way to start a review?

She brainstorms the review first on a computer to get all of her first impressions down fast.

Correct Answer: She writes the first paragraph out longhand several times before writing the rest of the review by hand.

She writes the conclusion first.

She writes down the main ideas and then goes back to revise.