

## FOED 1822- Introductory Field Experience and Orientation

# PLAY CRITIQUE

## CRITIQUE GUIDELINES...

*Be sure to identify the production. Please include place, date, the production company and other info that you are writing about.*

*Do Four of the following:*

- A. Describe and evaluate the acting in the production. Choose the performers you liked best--citing illustrations from the production. Note things they did well--gestures, moments, bits, etc.--and explain why you think they were good. Discuss the performer's voice, movement, and interpretation of the role? Separate the performer from the role. Can you dislike a character but admire the performance? How did the performers relate to each other? Did they listen and respond naturally, or did they look like they were "acting?"
- B. Describe and evaluate the directing in the production. Has the director helped the actors perform convincingly? Do the performers play together as an ensemble? Is it easy to see and hear what is going on? Are entrances and exits smooth? Scene changes? Is the stage space used well? Are some areas ignored? Does the pace and rhythm seem right? Does it drag or move swiftly?
- C. Describe and evaluate the set design of the production. Is the scenery helpful to the play? To the performers? Is it a hindrance? Too distracting? Too overbearing? Does it contribute to the mood? Is it appropriate for the style of the production? Is there a symbolic element in the scenery? In the shapes or colors? Is the design aesthetically pleasing in itself?
- D. Describe and analyze the lighting of the production? Is the lighting realistic or nonrealistic? Does it help create mood? Are all actors properly lit? Can we see their faces? How does the lighting use color and direction (where does it come from: below, above, behind, etc.)? Are light changes made slowly or quickly? Is this right for the play?
- E. Describe and analyze the costumes for the play. Are the costumes right for the play? In period and style? For the theme of the play? Are they right for individual characters, in personality, station in life, occupation, etc.? Is the design good? The colors? Why or why not? Are there differences between costumes for major and minor characters? Between one faction in the play and another?
- F. Describe and analyze the play script--characters, plot and structure, or content and theme, as in the play reading critique--and explain how the production realized that element of the written text in its production.