

## THE REVIEWS

Once a text goes into the public domain and faces an audience, the process of criticism begins. This may be formal (in a newspaper, magazine, journal, etc.) or informal (conversations, Facebook blogs etc.). This is referred to as the reception of the text, that is, *how* it is received by the public.

### Class discussion:

- How often have you read reviews of texts?
- Where do you find these?
- Do you always trust the review?



### Student activity: understanding and writing reviews

- In groups, choose one of the reviews below, ensuring that all are covered by the class and complete the table below.

<http://www.filmink.com.au/reviews/paul-kelly-stories-of-me-film/>

<http://www.theage.com.au/entertainment/movies/kellys-gang-20120804-23m60.html>

<http://www.sbs.com.au/films/movie/14319/paul-kelly-stories-of-me>

<http://splendidandlovely.blogspot.com.au/2012/08/miff-review-paul-kelly-stories-of-me.html>

<http://johnmcdonald.net.au/2012/paul-kelly-stories-of-me/>

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/movies/meatier-than-gravytrain-docos-20121027-28bwk.html#ixzz2EoV3iukF>

Additional reviews may be found at <http://www.paulkellythemovie.com.au/news/>

Features of a review		Your comments
Does the review	name the film and director	
	give an overview of the film	
	discuss what was liked	
	discuss what wasn't liked	
	refer to the film craft?	
Are there examples of	a personal comment	
	film techniques	
	plot summary	
	research	
	opinion	
	comment on the director	
	purpose of the film	
	reference to target audience?	
How does the title of the review position the audience?		
Find a statement that makes you want to see the film.		
Find a statement that makes you think twice about seeing the film.		
List the positive words and phrases used in the review.		
List the negative words and phrases used in the review.		
What is the tone of the review?		

- Report your group's findings to the class.
- Make sure you have read at least two of the other reviews. Using these and your knowledge of the conventions of reviewing films, write a review of a film, television show or video game that you have seen recently.