

# How to Write a Review

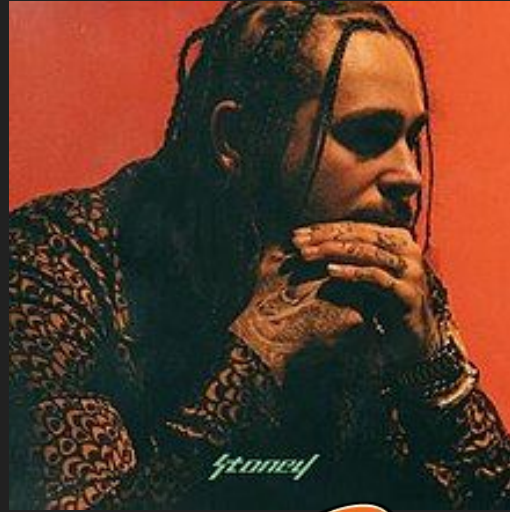


Please write down your answer to the following question:

Do you ever look to others to ask for their opinion on something (like a movie, song, album, place to eat, etc.) before you actually see it, listen to it, or buy it? Why?

# Types of Reviews

- Movies
- Music
- T.V. Shows
- Restaurants



# The Basics

- Establish *ethos* by showing that you “did your homework”
- Give your opinion → But it is not that simple
- Know your audience
- Know *what* to review

# How to Write a Music Review

## 1. Include an Introduction

- Who is the musician? What is the name of the song?
- What type of music is it?
- Overall impressions?

## 2. Background of the Musician

- How long has the musician been around? Are they well known?
- Previously released albums or songs
- How does this CD or song compare to others by this group or artist?

# How to Write a Music Review

## 3. Song

- Explain meaning of the song
- Quote lyrics
- Explain how song reflects the musician

## 4. Impressions and Opinions

- Impressions after throughout listening
- Unique elements
- Comparison to another, band, artist, or song

# How to Write a Music Review

## 5. Overall rating and final comments

- Rate on a scale of 1-10 or letter grade
- Will fans be happy or disappointed?
- Concluding comments

## REMEMBER:

- You do not have to address *ALL* of these suggestions, just use them as prompts!

# Shallow

Lady Gaga & Bradley Cooper

@PrachandaRawal



“Shallow,” the Bradley Cooper-Lady Gaga duet from the forthcoming remake of *A Star Is Born*, opens with an acoustic guitar that recalls strumming from the Peak Power Ballad Era — think the **percussive** nature of “More Than Words” and the **filigrees** of “I Remember You,” with a bit of “To Be With You” shagginess thrown in for good measure; Cooper’s slightly raspy voice brings to mind today’s country-pop singers in *Unplugged* mode. But when Lady Gaga — playing Ally, the **ingenue** who gets drawn in by Cooper’s grizzled rocker — comes in to cheers, “Shallow” explodes into colors, turning a simple love song into high drama.

Rock Powerhouse Gaga is one of her best personas, allowing her to channel her theater-kid background and pop-star present simultaneously; “Shallow” lets her not just revel but sound like she’s bathing in it, from the ovation accompanying her arrival to her final repetition of the chorus. The key moment, of course, is Gaga’s 17-second run at the song’s bridge, a vocal triumph that future generations will study. The musicians crouch into their starting blocks at 2:25, and two seconds later, she fires the starter’s pistol, teasing what’s to come with a breathy gasp; her voice then opens, and opens more, until she’s seemingly threatening to swallow the entire stage whole, sustaining its triumphant ending note before crashing back into its Bic lighter-worthy chorus. (Cooper’s somewhere in there, too, but Gaga steals the show as easily in Hollywood as she does in pop.)

# *Stuck?*

More questions to consider:

- Is this a good song to review?
- Does she give background on the musician?
- Can you tell if she knows the genre well or not?
- What audience does it seem like this author is writing to?
- Does it seem like she “did his homework”?
- Can you tell what her opinion is about Gaga, Cooper, or the song?
- Would you say she gave a good review? Why or why not?

# Group Work

- Discuss in your groups the strategies this author used when writing her review and decide whether or not this is a good/effective review of this song.

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# Kahoot

<https://create.kahoot.it/share/writing-a-review/a29d9d9f-f025-4b88-973e-b1e8093ac52e>

# Kahoot.it