

## **Creative Writing Assignment: *Setting (Restaurant Review)***

The job of a food reviewer is to accurately convey the tastes, textures, sounds, smells, and overall enjoyment of a particular meal and dining experience. A restaurant review is essentially persuasive writing, with an emphasis on detail. You are writing as a thoughtful critic, and you want to leave your readers with the impression that they should or should not try the restaurant you visited. Use sensory detail to describe your experience, but remain truthful; don't allow language to become too inflated or flowery. Your review should be clear and concise, with general statements supported by specific examples. Choose your words with purpose!

To write a restaurant review, focus on five areas:

- **Food**
  - The quality of food may be judged on the ingredients, preparation and presentation. Make sure to notice beverage selections also (for some readers, it's important to know whether a restaurant serves Coke or Pepsi products, and whether or not wine/alcohol is served).
  - If dining in an ethnic or regional restaurant, consider how authentic a particular dish is. (Have recipes have been modified to fit the taste of the local region?)
- **Service**
  - Service involves how you are treated during your dining experience, from the moment you walk in the door until the time you leave. Were people polite to you? Did you have to wait a long time for your order? Were your drinks served promptly? Was your order prepared correctly?
- **Atmosphere**
  - The atmosphere or ambiance is the general mood of the place; it includes lighting, furniture, colors and decorations. When evaluating atmosphere, consider the context and judge it fairly. (If, for example, you are in a sports bar on game day, it would be inappropriate to criticize it for having a noisy atmosphere.)
  - When writing about the atmosphere of a restaurant, also consider its history and location. Consider whether it is part of a chain, or local, and how the décor reflects this.
- **Price**
  - Provide a price range for a typical meal, and the price you paid for yours. If you visit a restaurant where a tip is expected, include the total amount you paid for your meal. You should also comment on whether or not you believe the food was worth the value of the money paid for it.
- **Cleanliness**
  - Readers appreciate knowing something about the cleanliness of restaurants. It is appropriate to comment on the condition of the silverware, tables, and floors. Make sure to visit the restroom so you can comment on that as well.

For this assignment, please visit an eatery you have never been to before. This way, you won't be tempted to write about your previous experiences at a particular place. However, please do not feel as though you need to spend a lot of money. You may go to a sandwich shop, pizza place, diner or coffee house and eat for just a few dollars—and you may take a friend. If you go with a friend, include your friend's reactions to the food and service, and include the amount he/she paid for the meal.

As an alternative to dining out, you may critique a meal at home that someone else has prepared for you; just be sure to comment on all five areas in your review. You may ask how much groceries cost and/or estimate the cost of the meal.

**Key Writing Skills:  
Detail and Description  
Clarity and Brevity**

---

### **Restaurant Review Rubric**

**Content:** Discuss food, service, atmosphere, price, and cleanliness

**Description:** Discuss food and atmosphere using sensory detail

**Tone\*:** Use persuasion appropriately

**Clarity and brevity:** Write clearly and thoroughly, without excessive wordiness

**Grammar, punctuation, mechanics**

\*Restaurant reviews are generally written in the first person, and may include some (but not much) use of the second person (“you”)