The Review

Sample title: "The Fire Inside: A Review of John Scale's Dragons."

A review may be either formal or informal, depending on the context. Its goal is to evaluate a work, which implies that the reviewer's personal opinion plays a significant role in the process. However, you still need to be objective and prove your assertions.

How formal your review is will be determined by how much of the essay is summary, how much is analysis, and how much is your reaction to the work you are reviewing. A more formal review will not only discuss the work, but also place it in context. Newspapers and popular magazines tend to review in terms of finance: is this record or film worth spending money on? Critical journals will attempt to determine whether a new novel or play has achieved something new and significant. A good review will discuss both the qualities and the importance of a given work.