



Critical Review: Guide & Example Ideas

Topic: Kitsilano Haida 2009/2010

Yearbook 11 & 12

The Assignment

- + Using your knowledge of yearbooks, your eye for style, and intuition with design you will compile and create a critical review of yearbook.
- + The Catch: You can not be in the yearbook you review.

What is a Critical Review?

Simply put, it is your knowledgeable and practical opinions and thoughts.

Not only do you need to highlight the things you like, but also the things you dislike.

Where to start?

- + Choose a yearbook that you are initially drawn to. This can be based on positive or negative reactions.
- + Covers, a specific year, or just a random choice are good indicators for this type of choice.
- + Next take a look through and put together a list...



My List

For my list I broke down all the main requirements from the Task Brief.

From here, I reviewed the book 2-3 times and used Post-It Notes to tag and comment on pages or sections that stood out to me.

I used these Post-It Notes to fill in my list. As I did this process, I began adding more notes for things I noticed on these reviews of the book and pages.

Here are some of the pages I
tagged...

NAT'S PIZZA

"A little bit of New York... and a whole lot of Italy!"

Nat's Pizza is easily Kits High's most popular lunch spot. Founded by Nat, a Kits grad, and his cousin Franco, Nat's serves an authentic New York style of pizza. Having traveled to New York to learn how to make pizza from his uncle, Nat felt inspired and decided to open up his own pizzeria back home in Kits. To get a feel of Nat's, we asked Franco a few questions.

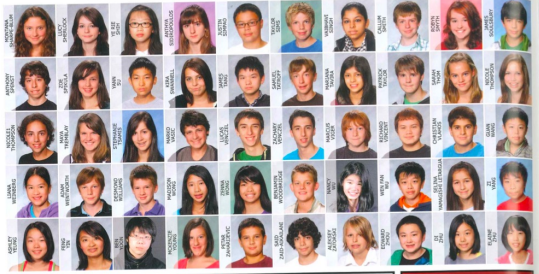
YB: Is there a secret ingredient in your pizza?
Franco: Some people say it's the cheese, some people say it's the sauce, others think it's the crust.
YB: What's the most popular kind of pizza here?
Franco: The most popular pizza here has got to be cheese, just plain cheese. It's also my favorite, but I like all of them.
YB: Do some customers come so often that you can remember their names?
Franco: Oh yes. Most of the kids from Kits come here all the time. I can probably name a third of them!

Nat's is known not only for its amazing pie, but also for its welcoming and unique interior. With its tall black stools and photo-covered countertops, Nat's is a hotspot for anyone who just needs a place to sit and relax. Nat and Franco recently opened a second location on Denman Street, in the West End. As well as feeding many ravenous students each and every day, Nat's also supports several teams and clubs at Kitsilano Secondary. Through great food and an even better attitude, Nat's has become an essential part of life at Kits.



Nat's Pizza 21

20 Page: Pauline L-G; Photos: Allie L.



Grade 9

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Sharpe-Blum - Zhu 135

Squares? Really!

In the wise words of Jeremy Lerner, "Squares isn't a theme. You and I both know it!" Well, it is. We all have our squares and boxes we use to categorize people; whether it is sports, academics, or one of the varieties of arts-of-fered. Yet we're taken-aback when we see people "break out of the box" and demonstrate their ability to fill other squares. The idea of our theme is to show that we as individuals are so much more capable than just fitting one square. We can be anything we choose to be. This year we chose the break free from the box of generic yearbook categories and divert our focus to the individuals and events which emphasize Kits' diversity. In shifting the focus from text to an abundance of photos- mainly seen with the addition of the Grad fun photos, we are able to see beyond the categorized squares we've created and into our schools character and each member's individuality. This enables us to examine our school as more than just a body of similarly-dressed teenagers, but as a place of growing opportunities and identities. With the slogan of "Find Your Square", we encourage you to go through the yearbook looking not only for where you were, but for where you could be. As we reflect upon our past opportunities, we gain the opportunity to grow, and expand our identities, providing more squares to fit into. We hope you like the squares we've high-lighted for you, and that you may see Kitsilano in a new light.



- Explanation of Theme!
 - Adds context & meaning to the book

Find Your Square



Published in Canada Printed in China



The next couple of slides are examples of some of the content that I would cover in my critical review.

These are incomplete, but will give you an idea of types of elements, ideas, and topics that you could discuss in yours 😊

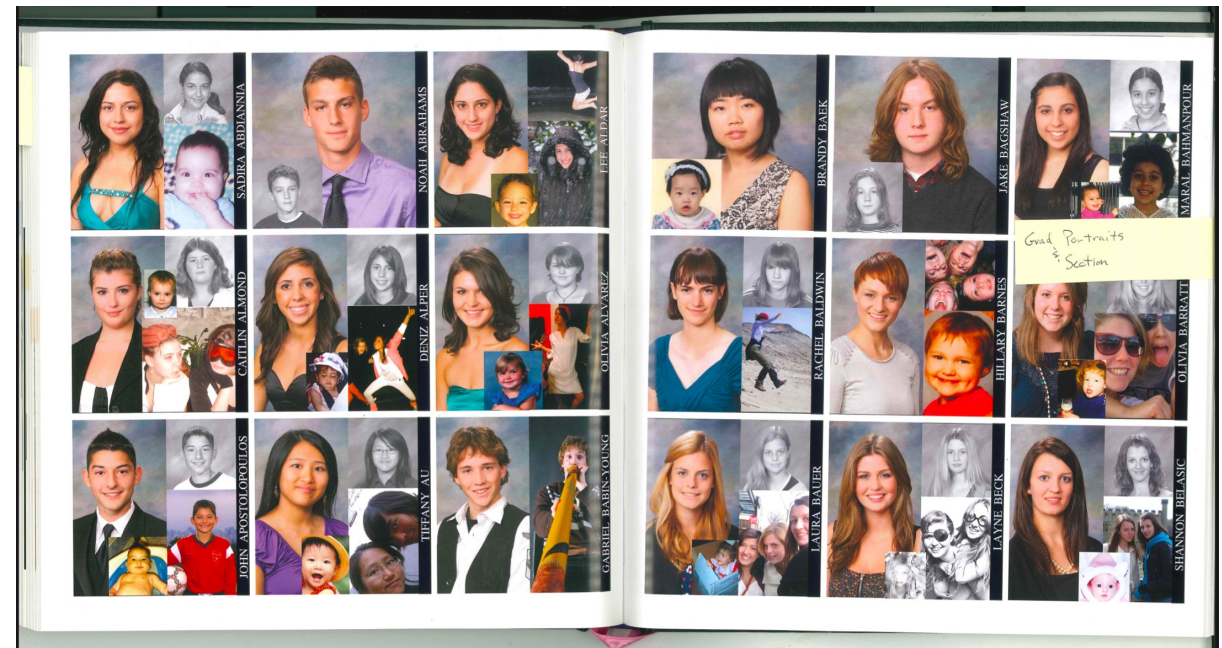
Example: Something I Liked

- + Student Section
- + Location: Beginning of Book
- + 'What Kits Means to Me' - Spotlight
- + The Editors used this section to highlight different school-wide events & activities.
- + Also included spreads where an individual student shared their experiences at school - Editors provided a diverse range of students.
- + I like that they tried to include the different perspectives of students. It helped to show the wide range of experiences that students would have.



Example: Something I Disliked

- + Grad Section
- + Location: Back of Book
- + Grad Portraits were very cluttered.
- + 18 students per spread. Includes Portrait, Baby Photo, Candid, Other, and Name of Student.
- + Names are typed vertically - this make them hard to read.
- + Adding so many photos with different colour tones was hard to look at. If they made the extra photos all B&W that would have helped visually.
- + There are not quotes. I don't know how I feel about this - I like the idea of quotes but understand that they may have been worried about having empty space.



Example:

Additional Thoughts

- + I like the whole concept of the book. The Find Your Square idea was great for layout planning and for telling the story of people finding/making their own space in high school.
- + They added a lot of written content, which was great to see. It provided a lot more context and explained quite a bit about events, activities, and students.
- + I found the overall style a bit confusing. Some sections were very cluttered and overwhelming with content and other areas were very sparse.
- + This inconsistency was probably due to differences in student planning and work.

