

Number of words: 772

Houdini's Full Evening Show.

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Joe Notaro
Contemporary Composition, 4
December 18, 1979

Joe Kotow
Contemporary Composition 4
December 13, 1979

154 words

This is not a
thesis
it is a
topic
sentence for
a paragraph.

Thesis: Houdini's show included ~~the~~ ^{not necessary}

~~parts~~ magic, escapes, and revelations of

spirit trickery.

Introductory Paragraph

Vanderbilt was fighting for its life
in the 1920's and the variety acts were
on their way out. However, a full evening
devoted to only a magic show on the
vanderbilt stage, if done correctly, would
attract an audience. Houdini, the
magician, tried to gamble on this: a show
by himself without clowns, tap dancers,

singers, and comics. He gave such a show twice and it failed. Despite this setback, Houdini was determined to either give a full evening show that was successful, or to break every bone in his own body in the effort. In the fall of 1925, the dream came true when Houdini put his full evening show on the road. The highly successful show played two hours and a half with Houdini on stage every minute. His formula for success was ^{essential part} _{of} ^{thesis} _{statement} presenting the show in three parts: magic, escapes, and revelations of spirit trickery. } *Good introduction*

Joe Notaro
Contemporary Composition 4
December 14, 1979

475 words

Body Paragraphs

Thesis: Houdini's show included:
magic, escapes, and revelations of
spirit trickery.

Body #1

In the first act of his show, he
did magic tricks. He opened with his
version of Harry Kellar's famous "Yogi's
Lamp", in which a lamp is wrapped
in a foulard and is seen glowing
through the cloth until the pronouncement
of the magic words, when the silk
is whisked away and the lamp is gone.
This is followed with a bright medley
of silk effects and the production of a
live rabbit. Also, ^{later,} a radio, ^{in a} ^{Acrosole} ^{cabinet,} playing

you have to
define this
by
impressionistic
reference.

loudly, was covered with a silk
foulard and vanished, with the music
stopping on the instant the radio cabinet
dematerialized. He produced glass
fish bowls, complete with live goldfish,
four silk foulards; half a dozen
alarm clocks vanished and made their
reappearance, ^{all} ringing lustily. *I still like
this phrase*
He ended the first act with his
famous needle trick; ^{on this one,} ~~where~~ he swallowed
three yards of thread and then a hundred
needles; an instant later the needles were
removed from his mouth and ^{were} seen dangling

from the thread.

Body #2

The second part of the show consisted of Houdini's escape tricks. He opened with the strait jacket. Two policemen secured him in a strait jacket, and after a struggle extending over a quarter of an hour, he was free. This he followed with a couple of fast releases from pillories, coffins, and trunks. Next was the handcuff challenge, in which he would ask anyone in the audience with a pair of cuffs that might restrain him, to bring them on stage. He would then proceed to escape from

Why switch to conditions?

their manacles. He then closed the
 second act with his famous Water
 Torture Cell. He ~~would be~~^{was} lowered
 head first, with his feet manacled, ^{of}
 into a ^{water-filled} mahogany-and-glass cabinet
 filled with water, from which he would
^{make} make his escape.

Use the
 simple past
 instead

Body #3

after an intermission, during
 which he dried off, he returned with
 the final part of the show, where he
 performed revelations of spirit trickery
 and exposed fraudulent mediums. a
 committee from the audience were

invited to the stage and blindfolded to simulate the darkness of the spirit mediums seance room. Then, Houdini performed a seance in full light using all the fraudulent mediums standard tricks: ringing bells, floating tables and spirit trumpets, productions of writing on slates, and the materialization of ectoplasmic forms. The blindfolded committee, of course, was completely baffled while the audience saw how everything was done and how easily "participants" could be hoodwinked.

Joe Notaro
Contemporary Composition
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143 words

Conclusion Paragraph

This show launched many more shows around the United States. The lines at the box offices for these shows ^{often} would extend ^{ed} from the lobby out into the street and a half block away. The show played a single week in most cities, but the run extended to three in Philadelphia, four in New York and eight in Chicago. When the show closed ~~closed~~ for the summer, Goudini had summed up the season shortly: "thirty-six weeks, and all O.K." During these weeks, newspaper after

newspaper glowingly reported that Houdini's full evening show was the biggest, best and most successful of all shows. Houdini had finally accomplished his goal; he made the full-evening show a success.

Excellent. Very interesting.