

## Writing Centre

# Critical Analysis Template

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In a **critical analysis** essay, you systematically **evaluate a work's effectiveness** including what it does well and what it does poorly. It can be used to discuss a book, article or even a film. You must read the piece carefully and may need to look up terms or concepts you are unfamiliar with or research related reading prior to writing your essay.

<b>Introduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• state the title of the work, the author's name and the date of publication</li><li>• outline main ideas of the book and identify the author's thesis</li><li>• state your own thesis statement and your main idea about the work</li></ul> <p>The novella, <i>The Metamorphosis</i>, by Frank Kafka is an excellent story because the author... The article "Narratives of intercultural transformation" by Ingrid Adams is informative and insightful because the author...</p>
<b>Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• briefly outline the main ideas of the book, article or film</li><li>• should involve who, what, where, when, why and how</li><li>• you may also choose to discuss the structure, style or point of view</li></ul> <p><i>This book is about...</i>                      <i>The author argues that...</i> <i>The setting is...</i>                              <i>The research was...</i> <i>The main character...</i>                      <i>The main points are...</i> <i>The theme is...</i>                              <i>The authors conclude...</i></p>
<b>Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• critically state what you like and do not like about the book, article or film</li><li>• explain your ideas with specific examples from the book, article or film</li><li>• assess whether the author has achieved their intended goal</li><li>• the analysis may look at whether the work is<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>focused, understandable, persuasive, clear, informative</i></li><li>▪ <i>original, exciting, interesting, well-written</i></li><li>▪ <i>directed at the appropriate audience, meeting the purpose</i></li><li>▪ <i>well researched, with appropriate conclusions, and more...</i></li></ul></li></ul> <p>The analysis is made up of several different paragraphs.</p>
<b>Conclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• restate your thesis in new words</li><li>• summarize your main ideas if possible with new and stronger words</li><li>• include a call to action for your reader</li></ul> <p><i>You must read this book because ... or This article is not useful because...</i></p>

Remember **critical analysis should be fun!** This is your chance to say what you think about a piece, but you must back up your opinions with supporting arguments and specific details from the text.