



Writing Centre

Critical Analysis Template

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.

Introduction

- state the title of the work, the author's name and the date of publication
- outline main ideas of the book and identify the author's thesis
- state your own thesis statement and your main idea about the work

The novella, *The Metamorphosis*, 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...

Summary

- briefly outline the main ideas of the book, article or film
- should involve who, what, where, when, why and how
- you may also choose to discuss the structure, style or point of view

This book is about...

The author argues that...

The setting is...

The research was...

The main character...

The main points are...

The theme is...

The authors conclude...

Analysis

- critically state what you like and do not like about the book, article or film
- explain your ideas with specific examples from the book, article or film
- assess whether the author has achieved their intended goal
- the analysis may look at whether the work is
 - *focused, understandable, persuasive, clear, informative*
 - *original, exciting, interesting, well-written*
 - *directed at the appropriate audience, meeting the purpose*
 - *well researched, with appropriate conclusions, and more...*

The analysis is made up of several different paragraphs.

Conclusion

- restate your thesis in new words
- summarize your main ideas if possible with new and stronger words
- include a call to action for your reader

You must read this book because ... or This article is not useful because...

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.