

# 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.

## 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.