

Critical Analysis

Reading Strategies for Critical Analysis

1. Double underline the **main idea** and write **MI** in the margin
2. Underline each **new claim** the writer makes, and write **c1, c2** in the margin
3. Circle **major point of transition** from the obvious to less obvious.
4. Asterisk* major pieces of **evidence or statistics** and write **E1, E2**
5. Write **CL** in the margin at points where the writer draws **major conclusions**
6. Put a question mark **?** next to points that are **unclear**, unreasonable, or out of place; write your comments in the margin
7. Put an exclamation mark **!** next to passages you react to in **agreement, disagreement or interest**; write your comments in the margin.
8. Write **G.P** (good point) besides points you think **well-made, you like, you agree** or when you think the author raises a good argument.

Critical Analysis



- **Introduction:**
 - Detail about the author and his work
 - Summary (Main Ideas)
- **Analysis**
 - Tone
 - Pattern of organization
 - Style
 - Purpose of the author
 - Appeals
 - Negative and positive points
 - Topic relevance
 - Achievement of purpose
- **Conclusion**
 - Opinion
 - Summary of the analysis



Template for Critical Analysis

Appeals

The three basic types of appeals are pathos, logos, and ethos.

- **Pathos** is an attempt to appeal to a reader's emotions. Works meant to entertain generally rely on pathos.
- **Logos** is an attempt to use logic and reason to sway a reader's perspective or opinion.
- **Ethos** is an appeal to credibility. An author who explains why he or she should be trusted based on personal, professional, or academic merit is using ethos

Pathos	Logos	Ethos
Ask yourself if you had an emotional response to an emotional appeal. Did you become happy, upset, or angry at any point? If so, ask yourself why.	Determine if the author's attempts at logic and reason were enough to change your mind. Also, ask yourself if the material was clear, accurate, and cohesive	Ask yourself if you believe the author to be credible. Determine why or why not.

Consider the following questions while interpreting texts

- ☐ How is the material organized?
- ☐ Who is the intended audience?
- ☐ What are the writer's assumptions about the audience?
- ☐ What kind of language and imagery does the author use?
- ☐ Is there a controversy surrounding either the passage or the subject which it concerns?
- ☐ What about the subject matter is of current interest?
- ☐ What is the overall value of the passage?
- ☐ What are its strengths and weaknesses?
- ☐ The evaluation will discuss your opinions of the work and present valid justification for them

Rubric	Detail	Format	Content Quality
Introduction	Detail about the author and his work (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Title - Author - Publication information Summary of the work (4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main idea (in your own words) - Major details (in your own words) - paraphrase - order of the summary (logical) 	1	5
Analysis	Interpretation and Evaluation: (9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tone - Pattern of organization - Style - Purpose of the author - Appeals - Negative and Positive points - Topic Relevance - Achievement of purpose 	2	9
Conclusion	Overview of the analysis Your Opinion	1	6
Mechanics	Sentence structure (2) Vocabulary (2) Punctuation (2) Paragraphing (5)		6+5
Total		35	