**SAMPLE OUTLINE FOR TEXTUAL ANALYSIS**

* I. Introduction paragraph -introduce the text/context (1 paragraph)
  + - 1. Title of article
    - 2. Author (include any relevant information)
    - 3. Publication information (when and where published)
    - 4. Thesis statement (specific information about the elements you analyze, ex. author’s purpose and if it was accomplished)
* II. Summary or description of the work (1 paragraph)
* III. Analysis of text (4 or more paragraphs)
  + 1. Intended audience—who is it? Does author meet audience’s needs? Give examples from the text that support your argument.
  + 2. Stance and tone—determine author’s stance and tone. Give examples from the text that support your argument.
  + 3. Purpose—what is the author’s goal? Give examples from the text that support your argument.
  + 4. Does author accomplish purpose—is this article effective? Does the author meet his/her goal? Give examples from the text showing why or why not.
* IV. Conclusion (1 paragraph)
  + A. Restate your thesis (not word for word)
  + B. Create a satisfying conclusion (discuss the larger picture, ask questions, propose action, etc.)

\*Adapted from Southeastern Louisiana University’s Webpage

**Remember:**

Avoid introducing your ideas by stating "I think" or "in my opinion." Keep the focus on the subject of your analysis, not on yourself. Identifying your opinions weakens them.

Always introduce the work. Do not assume that because your reader knows what you are writing about, you do not need to mention the work's title.

Other questions to consider: 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?

Support your thesis with detailed evidence from the text examined. Do not forget to document quotes and paraphrases.

Remember that the purpose of a critical analysis is not merely to inform, but also to evaluate the worth, utility, excellence, distinction, truth, validity, beauty, or goodness of something.

Even though as a writer you set the standards, you should be open-minded, well informed, and fair. You can express your opinions, but you should also back them up with evidence.

Your review should provide information, interpretation, and evaluation. The information will help your reader understand the nature of the work under analysis. The interpretation will explain the meaning of the work, therefore requiring your correct understanding of it. The evaluation will discuss your opinions of the work and present valid justification for them.

<http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Faculty/elejeune/critique.htm>