

# WRITING THE CRITICAL ANALYSIS



# CHOOSE WHAT TO ANALYZE

- **Consider appeals at ethos, pathos, logos**
- **Author's ability to make their point, consider:**
  - research,
  - cohesion,
  - organization



# ETHOS/PATHOS/LOGOS

- The goal of argumentative writing is to persuade your audience that your ideas are valid, or more valid than someone else's. The **Greek philosopher Aristotle** divided the means of persuasion, appeals, into three categories--
- **Ethos (Credibility)**, refers to the trustworthiness or credibility of the writer or speaker. Ethos is often conveyed through tone and style of the message and through the way the writer or speaker refers to differing views. It can also be affected by the writer's reputation-his or her expertise in the field, his or her previous record or integrity, and so forth.
- **Pathos (Emotional)** means persuading by appealing to the reader's emotions. Language choice affects the audience's emotional response. Pathos refers to both the emotional and the imaginative impact of the message on an audience, the power with which the writer's message moves the audience to decision or action.
- **Logos (Logical)** means persuading by the use of reasoning - the clarity of the claim, the logic of its reasons, and the effectiveness of its supporting evidence



# OUTLINE

## **I. Introduction**

- A. Background
- B. Thesis

## **II. Summary of work**

## **III. Interpretation/Evaluation**

## **IV. Conclusion**



# I. INTRODUC TION

Background information to help your readers understand the nature of the work

- A. Information about the work
  - 1. Title
  - 2. Author
  - 3. Publication information
  - 4. Statement of topic and purpose
- B. Thesis statement indicating writer's main reaction to the work





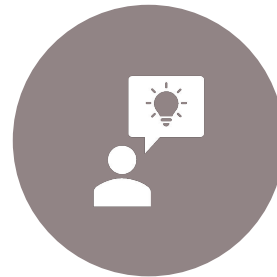
**You are “introducing” your topic to your reader**



**Background Information on the topic**



**Make sure to include the name of the article, its author and if necessary the publication information**



**Remember, don’t use “I think” or “In my opinion”**



# THE THESIS

- A sample:

*Although the author has some good points, his article is biased and contains some misinterpretation of data from others' analysis of the effectiveness of condemning public figures also known as cancel culture*

- *A brief statement that summarizes your overall evaluation of what you are critiquing.*
- *Can be both positive or negative as the one above, but also strictly positive or strictly negative*



## II. SUMMARY OR DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK

- **Provide an overview of the story/article.**
- *Highlight main character or main issue*
- *For example*
  - *The article is about the origin of woke and how it has evolved over the years. From an obscure word used by a certain class/race to a mainstream word splashed across cover pages and articles. There are a number of references that support the evolution of the word taken from the dictionary to pop culture. And how now it has become very mainstream.*



### ***III.*** **INTERPRETATION AND/OR EVALUATION**

- **A. Discussion of the work's organization**
- **B. Discussion of the work's style**
- **C. Effectiveness**
- **D. Discussion of the topic's treatment**
- **E. Discussion of appeal to a particular audience**
  - *Use the words specifically Ethos, Pathos and Logos*
  - *Who the intended audience is*

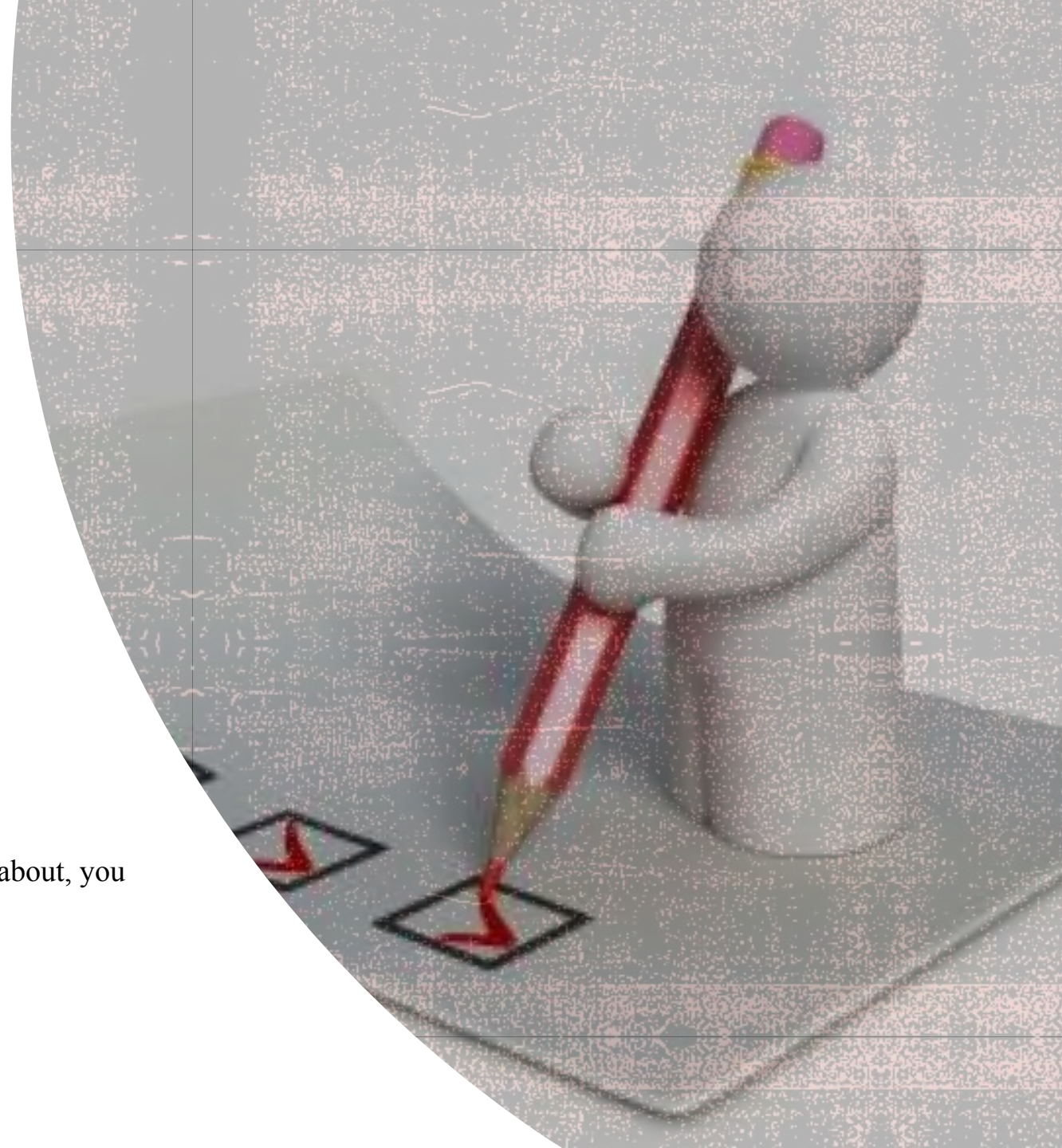
# IV. CONCLUS ION

- - A. Say how work could be improved**
  - B. Or, make a recommendation about influence of work**



# POINTS TO 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
- 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



# POINTS TO REMEMBER...(CONT)

- You should consider these questions
  1. Is there a controversy surrounding either the passage or the subject which it concerns?
  2. What about the subject matter is of current interest?
  3. What is the overall value of the passage?
  4. What are its strengths and weaknesses?





# POINTS TO REMEMBER...(CONT)

- 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



# POINTS TO REMEMBER...(CONT)

- 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

