



### 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.

|                              |   |                              |                                  |                          |                            |                              |                               |                        |                                |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Introduction</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• state the title of the work, the author's name and the date of publication</li><li>• outline main ideas of the book and <b>identify the author's thesis</b></li><li>• <b>state your own thesis statement</b> and your main idea about the work</li></ul> <p>The novella, <i>The Metamorphosis</i>, by Frank Kafka is an excellent story because the author...<br/>The article "Narratives of intercultural transformation" by Ingrid Adams is informative and insightful because the author...</p>  |                              |                                  |                          |                            |                              |                               |                        |                                |
| <b>Summary</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• briefly outline the main ideas of the book, article or film</li><li>• should involve who, what, where, when, why and how</li><li>• you may also choose to discuss the structure, style or point of view</li></ul> <table><tr><td><i>This book is about...</i></td><td><i>The author argues that...</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>The setting is...</i></td><td><i>The research was...</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>The main character...</i></td><td><i>The main points are...</i></td></tr><tr><td><i>The theme is...</i></td><td><i>The authors conclude...</i></td></tr></table>  | <i>This book is about...</i> | <i>The author argues that...</i> | <i>The setting is...</i> | <i>The research was...</i> | <i>The main character...</i> | <i>The main points are...</i> | <i>The theme is...</i> | <i>The authors conclude...</i> |
| <i>This book is about...</i> | <i>The author argues that...</i>  |                              |                                  |                          |                            |                              |                               |                        |                                |
| <i>The setting is...</i>     | <i>The research was...</i>  |                              |                                  |                          |                            |                              |                               |                        |                                |
| <i>The main character...</i> | <i>The main points are...</i>   |                              |                                  |                          |                            |                              |                               |                        |                                |
| <i>The theme is...</i>       | <i>The authors conclude...</i>  |                              |                                  |                          |                            |                              |                               |                        |                                |
| <b>Analysis</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• critically state what you like and do not like about the book, article or film</li><li>• explain your ideas with specific examples from the book, article or film</li><li>• assess whether the author has achieved their intended goal</li><li>• the analysis may look at whether the work is<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <i>focused, understandable, persuasive, clear, informative</i></li><li>▪ <i>original, exciting, interesting, well-written</i></li><li>▪ <i>directed at the appropriate audience, meeting the purpose</i></li><li>▪ <i>well researched, with appropriate conclusions, and more...</i></li></ul></li></ul> <p>The analysis is made up of several different paragraphs.</p> |                              |                                  |                          |                            |                              |                               |                        |                                |
| <b>Conclusion</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• restate your thesis in new words</li><li>• summarize your main ideas if possible with new and stronger words</li><li>• include a call to action for your reader</li></ul> <p><i>You must read this book because ... or This article is not useful because...</i></p>  |                              |                                  |                          |                            |                              |                               |                        |                                |

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.