

Writing a Critique

What is a critique?

Critiques are written essays that require the student to analyze and evaluate an article or other work. It is more than just a summary.

How do I analyze an article?

An analysis should include the following points:

- Author's main point
- Author's purpose
- Intended audience
- Arguments used to support the main point
- Evidence that supports the arguments
- Any assumptions or biases of the author

How do I evaluate an article?

Evaluate by considering the following questions:

- Is the argument logical?
- Is the article well-organized, clear and easy to read?
- Are the facts accurate?
- Are the arguments supported by sufficient evidence?
- Do the arguments support the main point?
- Is the text appropriate for the intended audience?
- Does it present and refute opposing points of view?
- Does the article help you understand the subject?
- Is there anything that evokes a strong response from you? What is it and what is your reaction?
- What do you already know about the topic? How do you know it? What influenced your views? How does it agree or disagree with the author of this article?
- What does the article make you think about?

How do I write a critique?

When writing a critique, follow these steps:

- Use standard essay form.
- Begin with an introduction that defines the subject of your critique and your point of view. Describe the author's ideas and include specific passages to support your description of the author's point of view.
- Defend your point of view by raising specific issues or aspects of the argument. Describe several points with which you agree or disagree. For each point, include specific passages (summarize, quote, or paraphrase) that provide evidence for your point of view. How do these passages support your opinion?
- Conclude by summarizing your argument and re-emphasizing your opinion.

Source of Information: Rosen, Leonard J. and Laurence Behrens, eds. *The Allyn & Bacon Handbook*, 1994.



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