

UNIT 10 / THE CRITICAL REVIEW

- The critical review is a writing task for which you are asked to *summarize and evaluate* a text or other piece of work.
- You can be reviewing *a book, or a journal article*. In order to write the review, you have to read the selected text in detail and to also read *other related texts*.
- When you attempt to understand the topic from different perspectives, you are able to present a more insightful and fair evaluation of the selected text. *Some arguments will be confirmed and some others will raise new interesting questions*.
- A critical analysis requires some personal judgement but, in the academic context, this analysis should *not limited to the negative aspects of the text*. Rather it should point out *both the positive and the negative aspects*.
- The analysis should mainly inform the readers about the work's *major points, what makes it different, as well as its overall contribution and value*.
- Moreover, it should *question the information and opinions included in the text, in the context of promoting a thoughtful examination and a constructive dialogue*.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CRITICAL REVIEW PAPER

Title of Text - Author's Name - Author's Calibre	
Background and Context of the Topic	
The Value of the Text	
Author's Purpose	
Summary of Key Arguments	
Reviewer's Statement of Evaluation	
Outline of the Review Paper	

SUMMARY OF THE CRITICAL REVIEW PAPER

Main arguments	
Evidence	
Methodology	
Findings	
Conclusions	
Implications	

EVALUATION / CRITIQUE

When agreeing with the views of others:

As [Author] concludes ...

This is also [Author]'s view ...

Following from [Author]'s point ...

The view being put forward here is largely in agreement with that of [Author] ...

The argument being put forward here is similar to that of [Author] (2018).

When disagreeing with the views of others:

Contrary to the views of [Author], ...

[Author]'s arguments do not seem compelling for the reasons that ...

In contrast to [Author]'s view/argument/data ...

Analyzing [Author]'s work in this way, it can be seen that ...

Problems arise in [Author]'s work when it is observed that ...

The point being made here is that [Author]'s argument/ conclusion does not follow ...

TYPES OF QUESTIONS IN A CRITICAL REVIEW

Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What kind of text is it?- Is it primary source (original research) or secondary source (commentary on some original source)?- How many sections are there? What is their chosen sequence? Are they effective in that order?
Methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is the research quantitative or qualitative?- How does the chosen procedure address the hypothesis?- Are there any weaknesses in the procedure or in the tools?
Reasons/Evidence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What type of evidence is provided (empirical, statistical, mathematical, logical)?- What sources does the author use?- What type of reasoning is used to accompany the practical application?
Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Is the conclusion adequately supported by data?- Are there any other plausible interpretations?- How does the work contribute to the field?
Logic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- What assumptions does the researcher make?- Are there parts of evidence and data which are left out?- Are there any alternative perspectives that are left unconsidered?- Are there any logical fallacies affecting the arguments made by the researcher?

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