



Essay writing

Critical analysis essay planner

A critical analysis essay allows the writer to show their understanding of the text and how the author has used language to create meaning.

A critical analysis essay (or response) could look like this:

INTRODUCTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Begin with an interesting first sentence to grab the reader’s attention and set up a context for the analysis. ■ Write in the third person – avoid the use of <i>I</i>, <i>me</i> or <i>my</i>. ■ Introduce the text using its full title and the author’s name. ■ The writer should state their response to the question and ideas about the text (this is called the statement of position). ■ The introduction should include some sentences that outline why the writer has taken this position with a summary of some of the evidence from the text that supports the position – this could include discussion of the central meaning of the text and some of the main techniques or language used by the author to achieve the meaning.
BODY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write a one or more paragraphs about each of the different elements or parts of the text. These parts could include discussion of the text’s: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meaning • structure • tone and atmosphere • type of language used • imagery and symbolism • other language uses. ■ Start each paragraph with a topic sentence that states the main idea for the paragraph. ■ Include relevant examples from the text as evidence – including direct quotes from the text and references to characters or plot. ■ Use linking words at the start of each paragraph to bind the essay together. Useful linking words include: <i>moreover</i>, <i>in addition</i>, <i>another</i>, <i>similarly</i>, <i>also</i>, <i>furthermore</i>, <i>however</i>, <i>in contrast</i>, <i>on the other hand</i>, <i>although</i> and <i>alternatively</i>.
CONCLUSION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Don’t introduce new ideas – remind the reader of the main ideas and themes of the text. ■ The conclusion should reaffirm and support the writer’s point of view (outlined in the introduction).

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