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
- 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, me or my.
- 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
- 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:
  - 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: moreover, in addition, another, similarly, also, furthermore, however, in contrast, on the other hand, although and alternatively.

### CONCLUSION
- 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).