

Critical Review

A critical review is the summary and analysis of a text. It goes further than a personal opinion—it evaluates this text by explaining and assessing both its content and its structure. It can rely either on the information provided in the text itself or on relevant information provided in related texts. As its name implies, a critical review requires the use of **critical reading** and **critical thinking** in order to provide a comprehensive summary and analysis of the studied text.

This resource is not exhaustive and does not replace the writing instructions given in class. In case of any doubt, consult the professor before structuring your paper as it is indicated here.

Introduction

Context: Get the reader's attention and introduce the text by providing noteworthy details.

Thesis: Present the studied text and its author.

Outline: Present the thesis developed by the author in the studied text.

Body

Summary: Restate the original text's main ideas in your own words.

- Do active reading. Start by reading the abstract and the headings in order to identify the author's thesis and the text's main ideas. Then, read the text from start to finish and highlight the key terms.
- Make a reverse outline. Extract the main idea from each paragraph, section or chapter for a clear overview of the text's content and structure.
- Evaluate the text. Establish its strengths and weaknesses by considering the methodology, the results and conclusions, the theoretical approach, etc.
- Summarize the text. Include the information that is essential to comprehension (and that will be addressed in your analysis of the text), and eliminate details of lesser importance.

Analysis: Explain and assess the original text.

- Show how the arguments or themes discussed by the author support (or not) his or her thesis.
- Organize your ideas in a clear and coherent way so that the reader can easily follow your paper. If necessary, use headings to clarify its progression.

Conclusion

Summary: Restate the author's main ideas in connection with his or her thesis to assess their validity.

Final thought: Make a final comment that supports your assessment in a memorable way.