

## WRITING A CRITICAL REVIEW

### Purpose

### Structure

Introduction	Summary						Critique	Conclusion
<p>1. <b>Establish</b> context, mention the title of the article and author.</p> <p>2. <b>Introduce</b> topic and mention author's <b>purpose</b>. (found in synopsis or abstract).</p> <p>3. <b>Comment</b> on appropriateness of author's purpose in terms of timelessness and importance of subject.</p> <p>4. Mention <b>what authority</b> or <b>expertise</b> the author has to write on the subject.</p> <p>5. <b>Present Thesis Statement</b></p> <p><b>Explain</b> whether you agree/disagree/ partly agree with it.</p> <p>Remember that you have to support this view in your critique and that the structure of your critique depends on your overall impression of the reviewed material as given in your thesis</p>	<p>Main purpose of the summary is to provide the reader with adequate information necessary to understand the critical commentary that follows.</p> <p>The summary should be <b>objective</b> and should not include any personal interpretation or discussion. In a research based article, <b>summarise</b> each section of the article.</p>						<p>The purpose of the critique is to express your judgments and comments about the writing you are reviewing.</p> <p>It consists of personal judgments, comments and opinions.</p> <p>Ask yourself the following questions about the article.</p>	<p>Restates the most important comments from the introduction and sums up the main critical points from your Critique.</p>
	Introduction including the research question.	Background	Hypotheses	Methods	Results and discussion	Conclusion	<p><b>Argument</b></p> <p>What is the explicit or implicit argument/ perspective (conclusion) of the paper?</p> <p>Was it stated up front?</p> <p>What was their insight, i.e, was the argument novel, risky, open to falsification?</p>	<p>1. Restate the purpose of the article/ book.</p>
	<p>What was done?</p> <p>Is the research qualitative or quantitative?</p>	<p>Why the research was carried out?</p>	<p>What idea is the author proposing?</p> <p>What facts does the author rely on to support their hypotheses?</p>	<p>How was the experiment/ research done?</p>	<p>What was found and what does it mean?</p> <p>Do recommendations follow from the results?</p> <p>Are there suggestions for further research?</p>	<p>What was the conclusion of the research / study?</p>	<p><b>Definitions</b></p> <p>Are all key words well defined? (described)</p> <p><b>Arguers</b></p> <p>Who are the authors?</p> <p>Have they established their expertise?</p> <p>Why have they selected this particular argument?</p> <p><b>Evidence</b></p> <p>What evidence is brought to support the argument (conclusion)? Was the evidence convincing, novel, insightful?</p> <p>Was the counter argument fully considered?</p>	<p>2. Using your critique as a base, make a judgment about how successful author has been in achieving their purpose.</p> <p>3. Restate your own response to the article that has been reviewed from the introduction.</p> <p>4. Comment on whether or not the reviewed material makes a useful contribution to the body of literature already published in the area.</p>

## Academic Language for reporting and connecting ideas

### To introduce an additional idea

in addition, another reason/ aspect/example, furthermore, moreover, besides, also

### To introduce an opposite idea or contrast

On the other hand, in contrast, in spite of, Although, still, nonetheless, instead, compare this with, alternatively, otherwise, on the contrary, rather

### To give an example

For example, for instance, an example of this is, a further instance of this is,

### To list ideas in order of time

First, first of all, first and foremost, second, more important, most important, more significantly, above all, most of all, concurrently, an additional

### To introduce an explanation or make a stronger statement

In fact, indeed

### To introduce a result

Accordingly, as a result, as a consequence, consequently, for these reasons, hence, therefore, thus

### To point to evidence

It can be seen that, the evidence is that, in support of this

### To make a tentative statement

Studies suggest that, perhaps, it would seem that, it tends to be the case that, studies indicate

## Hedging Expressions

It should be the case that..... Viewed in this way.....

It might be suggested that.... There is every hope that...

It may be possible to obtain.... It is important to develop....

It is useful to study..... It is not known whether

One cannot exclude from..... It is/it is not difficult to conclude from...

## Discipline Examples

## Useful Links

Writing a critical review

[https://www.jcu.edu.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0003/122844/jcuprd1\\_073145.pdf](https://www.jcu.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/122844/jcuprd1_073145.pdf)