

### Critique/Review Papers

Not what the paper is written about, but how the paper was written

**Prompt:** Was your author successful and effective in making their argument/writing their paper?

Critique/Reviews often ask you to analyze how the author wrote their article and whether they got the point across effectively. This does not necessarily mean that you agree with what they were writing about, but did they do a good job writing it?

#### **Introduction Paragraph:**

- Introduce the author and the article in question.
- Can include a brief summary on what the article was about
- Identify the intended audience
- Identify the author's thesis, main point/argument
- Your thesis as the last sentence (see below)

**Example Thesis:** Author (was/was not) [successful/effective] in making their argument because of (Reason A), (Reason B), and (Reason C).

#### **Body Paragraphs:**

These are some potential questions you want to ask yourself when critiquing the author.

Note: Use direct quotes, paraphrases, or summaries of the author's statements to illustrate the points that you are critiquing.

- **Did the author use rhetorical strategies?**
  - Logos: "LOGIC" usage of statistics, facts, reasoning, and outside sources
  - Pathos: "EMOTION" usage of emotional stories and experiences
  - Ethos: "ETHICS" usage of authorial credibility
- **Did your author use appropriate language/writing for their intended audience?**
  - Tone: is the author's "voice" angered, sarcastic, professional, intense, boring, etc.
  - Diction: is the author's choice of words/phrases appropriate? Do they use slang/informal/colloquial language or do they use formal/literary/technical language?
- **Is the author biased, fair, or neutral?**
  - Does the author present a counterargument or do they show a strong bias/prejudice?
  - Does the author stay neutral and not offer any indication of their opinion?
- **Is the article structured well?**
  - Does the author present their information in a logical and organized order?
  - Does the author effectively indicate transitions between ideas?

**Conclusion:** Make sure that the introduction and the concluding paragraphs coincide with one another.

- Restate or rephrase your thesis, summarize your body paragraphs, and leave an overall final critique on why you believe the author is successful or not.
- You may also comment on the importance or relevance of critiquing the author's argument.

**Discretionary Notice:** This is a generalized guide intended to aid students. Always follow your instructor's prompts and instructions first - they are the one grading your assignment.