

Grading Rubric Critical Analysis Essay

Assignment Value: 100 points

I. Introduction (10 points)

- Introduces the title and author of the article
- Presents a clear central theme / thesis
- Defines necessary terms

II. Short summary (10 points)

- Gives a very brief summary of the article
- Previews your argument

III. Body (50 points)

- Accurately communicates the purpose and intent
- Arguments are clearly identified
- Evaluation of ambiguities, fallacies, etc are thoroughly analyzed and discussed
- Arguments are presented logically
- Similar issues are organized and grouped together
- Focus is on your argument and is not a summary
- Transitions are smooth and appropriate and move the reader through the paper
- Direct quotes, paraphrases, and summaries are correctly documented in MLA or APA format
- Includes Core Value

IV. Conclusion (10 points)

- Restates the ideas and theme presented
- Does not introduce new ideas
- Does not summarize the paper
- Closes with striking reference to your argument

V. Grammar and Style (10 points)

- Written entirely in present tense
- Contains no sentence fragments or run-on sentences
- Avoids contractions
- Avoids use of first person
- Is properly punctuated
- Contains no misspelled words
- Well-written sentences vary in length
- Language is appropriate to subject and course

VI. Mechanics (10 points)

- Word count requirements are met
- Bibliography is completed correctly

Critical Analysis Essay Guidelines

Explanation of Critical Analysis Essays

You are to write four formal (either APA or MLA) critical analysis essays of an assigned article, approximately **650 words** each, applying principles of critical thinking to your analyses. In addition, you are to apply one Saint Leo University Core Value to the assignment. Core Values are listed in the syllabus.

These essays must be submitted to the Dropbox, which is linked to Turnitin. Please see the syllabus for more information about Turnitin.

Critical analysis involves going into the depths of the subject or material to be reviewed and discussing it objectively so that the readers get to know the subject better and in details. A format for critical analysis should not only be a review and contain a summary of what other critics say about the work. The major purpose of it is to voice your concerns, views and opinions based on correct and logical evidences.

You should be reflective (think deeply and engage in multiple rewrites) not reflexive (inserting the first ideas that come to mind.) When you find one assumption, always ask whether anything deeper has to be taken for granted for that assumption to be true. You may find a more profound assumption.

Be thorough and precise and especially, be convincing. Feel free to use "if" clauses, "it is possible" clauses, "for his reason X to be true" clauses, and "for the reason to support his conclusion" clauses, or any other creative device you choose to show the impact of any ambiguity or assumption that you have identified.

Since the required word count is only **650 words**, (please abide by that within 50 words in either direction) it is important to be concise in all parts of your analysis. Writing and following an outline is crucial to remain focused on your argument and avoid summary or irrelevant description.

Refer to the Grading Rubric for more information about requirements and criteria for grading.

Format of critical analysis:

A. Introduction – Your introductory paragraph should set the stage for what is to follow. Use a catchy first line to grab the reader's attention. In this paragraph you should present the central theme, the thesis statement, and facts surrounding the main theme. Any important definitions and terms that will have relevance in the body can be defined and explained here if necessary.

B. Short summary - Provide a very brief summary of the work being reviewed. Then preview your argument, briefly stating what you will attempt to prove your argument. Never present any more than the minimum that the reader needs to know to understand your argument.

C. Body – C. Body – This should be the bulk of your paper. It is where the scope of the thesis should be explored and where the facts and data presented in the article are analyzed and checked for their logic and accuracy. It is where you will present details of the reviewed material and where you ask the critical thinking questions we have covered so far in the course. You should identify and discuss any and all ambiguous terms and phrases, value and descriptive assumptions, fallacies, sources of evidence or lack of sufficient evidence, credentials of authorities, and appropriate citations, etc. It should clearly demonstrate how your analysis and evaluation influences how you reacted to the reasoning. Most importantly, it should be your argument about the article and not a summary. Even though you are potentially only referring to one source, you still need to cite your information using parenthetical citation or footnotes / endnotes. In this section you will also apply the relevance of your chosen core value as it relates to the critical analysis.

D. Conclusion – This final paragraph should sum up your overall conclusions. It should not contain any new or additional information. It should very briefly restate the ideas or arguments that have already been presented in the paper and more so point out the importance of your argument. Provide an interesting closing - a striking statement or a dramatic example with reference back to the thesis statement, making an impact and signaling the end of your essay.