

Writing a Critique

All research is open to question and should be approached with an enquiring mind, and this approach should be evident in your critique. Most importantly, you would want some assessment of the work; why the article is worth reading (if indeed it is), whether or not the author's arguments are convincing, and how the study contributes to current understanding. To critique an article effectively you need an in-depth understanding of its content.

You should not attempt to comment on each section in the article, or organise your discussion in the same way as the article itself is organised, as this could lead to unnecessary detail, as well as the impression of a lack of analysis.

Framework for an article critique

Introduction	Name and author of article. Briefly states what author set out to investigate, study aims and objectives.
Background and context	Briefly situates study in wider context. Highlights main issues or problems to be addressed. States why the author thinks this area is important or significant.
Study design	Briefly describes study methods and procedures.
Summary of key findings	Highlights major findings. Summarises key implications.
Assess the strength of argument and evidence Mention any limitations/weaknesses in study objectives or design	Were the conclusions supported? Were the conclusions convincing? Were there any questionable assumptions? Was the study design (e.g., methodology, data analysis) suitable for the author's aims and objectives?
Key insights, implications	What key insights does this study provide? How do these add to current understanding and knowledge in the field generally? What ideas or knowledge did you personally gain from reading the article?
Conclusion	Sums up your overall reaction to the work: why you found it useful/interesting/valuable—or not. Mention areas that the study did not address and could / should have.