In a **critical analysis** essay, you systematically **evaluate a work’s effectiveness** including what it does well and what it does poorly. It can be used to discuss a book, article or even a film. You must read the piece carefully and may need to look up terms or concepts you are unfamiliar with or research related reading prior to writing your essay.

### Introduction

- state the title of the work, the author’s name and the date of publication
- outline main ideas of the book and identify the author’s thesis
- state your own thesis statement and your main idea about the work

The novella, *The Metamorphosis*, by Frank Kafka is an excellent story because the author…

The article “Narratives of intercultural transformation” by Ingrid Adams is informative and insightful because the author…

### Summary

- briefly outline the main ideas of the book, article or film
- should involve who, what, where, when, why and how
- you may also choose to discuss the structure, style or point of view

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>This book is about...</th>
<th>The author argues that...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The setting is...</td>
<td>The research was...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The main character...</td>
<td>The main points are...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The theme is...</td>
<td>The authors conclude...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Analysis

- critically state what you like and do not like about the book, article or film
- explain your ideas with specific examples from the book, article or film
- assess whether the author has achieved their intended goal
- the analysis may look at whether the work is
  - focused, understandable, persuasive, clear, informative
  - original, exciting, interesting, well-written
  - directed at the appropriate audience, meeting the purpose
  - well researched, with appropriate conclusions, and more... The analysis is made up of several different paragraphs.

### Conclusion

- restate your thesis in new words
- summarize your main ideas if possible, with new and stronger words
- include a call to action for your reader

*You must read this book because ... or This article is not useful because...*

Remember **critical analysis should be fun**! This is your chance to say what you think about a piece, but you must back up your opinions with supporting arguments and specific details from the text.