

Critical Writing: Introduce - Describe - Analyze - Reflect

	<p>Personal Narrative</p> <p><i>A reflective narrative about a life experience that contributed to your development in your field of inquiry.</i></p>	<p>Book Annotation</p> <p><i>A review and analysis of one text and its relationship to you.</i></p> <p>(Used to demonstrate understanding of and critical engagement with a text essential to your studies. Not to be confused with an annotated bibliography.)</p>	<p>Literature Review/Engaged Critical Essay*</p> <p><i>A discussion of central texts in the academic discipline or areas of inquiry you are studying. You place texts in dialogue with each other and with yourself. In a more expansive critical essay, you add something new to the ongoing conversation.</i></p>
<p>INTRODUCE & ESTABLISH PURPOSE</p> <p><i>ONE PARAGRAPH ONLY</i></p>	<p>OVERVIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefly summarize who you are and how you came to have this specific experience Include brief summary of experience Give broad background and contextual details about experience <p>THESIS: What about this experience made it worth writing about? What are the central themes of your experience? What are your main points?</p>	<p>OVERVIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a summary/synopsis of the text <p>THESIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the main message of the book? What is the author's conclusion? What are your overall reactions? 	<p>OVERVIEW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish your area or inquiry and guiding questions Provide a brief summary of the themes and trends you found in your various sources and how they relate to your area of inquiry <p>THESIS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the main points of your discussion of this literature and your critique of it/its relationship to you and your work
<p>DESCRIBE</p> <p><i>WHO-WHAT-WHEN-WHERE-WHY-HOW?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detail the events of your experience; be specific – who did you meet? where did you go? what did you do? What observations did you make? (try to vividly describe the people and settings involved in your experience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the main points the author makes? (INCLUDE QUOTATIONS FROM SOURCES IN APA FORMAT) What are the themes and sub-themes? Who is the writer? What is the writer's cultural background? From what particular experiences does the author get his/her knowledge? Is the author associated with any recognizable "movement" or school of thought? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the roles of those who came before you in your area of inquiry? What important points are made in existing literature in your area of inquiry? INCLUDE QUOTATIONS FROM SOURCES USING APA FORMAT. What are the recurring themes and sub-themes? What is worth noting about various contributors to your field of inquiry?
<p>ANALYZE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What new and interesting things you learn from the experience? How do you explain your observations? What was special or mundane about the experience? What questions were answered? What new questions arose? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What assumptions and values are associated with the themes and sub-themes of the text? What are the limitations of this book? (What doesn't it cover that you might have expected it to cover?) What is the author's general position with regards to the text – esp. any biases, prejudices, or strong opinions? What in the writing indicates what the author wants you to know, realize, believe, think, feel? What events, words, phrases, statements, characters, settings, etc. contribute to where the author wants you to land? To whom is the author speaking? What background information isn't provided? What does the book accomplish? Does it accomplish what you believe it was meant to accomplish? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the merits and limitations of the texts? What assumptions, values, and attitudes are associated with the themes of the texts? How are the various texts in agreement and/or in conflict with each other and with your own views/understanding? What new conclusions can you draw about the subject matter? What are your personal biases and perspectives on the subject? How do they relate?
<p>REFLECT</p> <p>All: How does this paper help demonstrate competency (in any of the graduation requirements)?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will this experience relate to your future as an educator? How has this experience transformed you? What did this experience inspire you to do next? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate what this book means to you personally How does this book relate to your semester or your studies overall? How might this book relate to other people? Assess the value of the text 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *What is your personal philosophy in your field of inquiry? What have other voices in your field taught you or inspired you to do? What are your own biases and assumptions? How has your study of this literature helped to alleviate them? What are your strengths and weaknesses in your field? What can help you grow? What is your vision for your future?