

Johnson County Community College Critiquing Magazine Articles

Although reviews of magazine or journal articles may take a variety of forms and may be of any length, reviews usually contain the same basic information. Be sure to check with your instructor for the type of information he or she would like emphasized and to make sure you understand what articles are acceptable. Know the difference between popular periodicals and refereed professional journals. Most reviews include some or all of the following:

1. An introduction designed to capture the reader's attention.
2. Identification of the article, including the title, the author's name, the name of the periodical in which it appears, the date, and the issue number.
3. A statement about the problem or thesis presented in the article.
4. A discussion about the author's position on the issue being discussed, if his/her position is apparent.
5. An evaluation of the form and content. Does the author support each point with examples, statistics, or explanations? Does he/she omit or downplay essential information, particularly information that may conflict with his/her views? Is the article clearly worded, carefully organized?
6. An analysis of the possible effects that the article might have on readers within and outside of the field. Are the ideas new or controversial?
7. A personal application of the ideas to one's life. How can the critique writer relate the author's ideas to his/her own life and to the experiences of other people he/she knows.

A note of caution! Do not quote from the article without a good reason for doing so. Only quote the most important passages or to illustrate a point you are making about the article. When you do quote, use a lead-in to explain the significance of the passage, and be sure to use quotation marks or appropriate indentation to show that the words are the author's and not your own.

*Example of a possible **Critical Analysis** assignment*

Choose a recent article about a topic discussed in class or a current issue or trend from a business periodical, such as *Fortune 500*, *Entrepreneur*, *Small Business Management*, or other business-related periodicals as recommended by the instructor.

Read carefully for understanding, highlighting areas to reread, review, or connect to class. Underline new or difficult vocabulary words. Make sure you define them.

The critical analysis should include the following: an understanding of the article (summary); the connection or relation to class discussion and/or text assignments; any unique or additional information, perspective, or slant on the topic; and the student's response or reaction to the article.