

Art Critique

oral or written discussion strategy used to describe, analyze, interpret and evaluate works of art

Doing art criticism is like playing a detective. You must assume that the artist has a secret message hidden inside the work. Your job is to solve the mystery and find the message

Thesis Statement

A thesis statement is the **main idea** or main point of an informational text. It serves as a **roadmap** of the text you are reading. Simply, the thesis statement provides **direction or purpose** to the text (can be explicit or implicit)

Guide Questions for a Strong Thesis Statement

What is your topic?

What is your stance or claim?

What is your rationale (basis) for this stance?

What acknowledgement will you make to qualify your stance and consider opposition?

Qualification + Stance + Rationale = THESIS

Use of Counterargument

A counterargument involves acknowledging standpoints that go against your argument and then re-affirming your argument. It is a standard move used in academic texts because it shows readers that you are capable of understanding and respecting multiple sides of an argument.

Have a Thorough Understanding of the Work

Study the work under discussion

Make **notes on key parts** of the work.

Develop an **understanding of the main argument** or purpose being expressed in the work

Consider how the work **relates to a broader issue** or context (e.g societal, political, racial).

Four-steps System Method

Description **describe** the work without using value words such as "beautiful" or "ugly"

What do I see?

Analysis describe how the work is **organized** as a complete composition

How is the work organized?

Interpretation describe how the work makes you think or **feel**

What is the artist trying to say?

Judgement present your opinion work's **success or failure**

What do I think of the work?

or Major Areas of Art Criticism (adapted from Holland Central School District)

Critique Paper

A critique is a type of academic text that involves **evaluating and analyzing** a specific piece of work. It provides a critical assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of the work being reviewed, offering insights and suggestions for improvement (Booth, W.C. Colomb, G. C., & Williams, J. M., 2009).

What works do we critique?

Creative works novels, exhibits, films, images

Research monographs, journal articles, reviews

Media news reports, feature articles

Why do we write critiques?

a **knowledge** of the work's subject or related works

an **understanding** of the work's purpose, intended audience, development of argument, structure of evidence or creative style

a **recognition** of the strengths and weaknesses of the work

Writing Vocabulary

Analytical Verbs Different verbs have different meanings or suggest different relationships between authors, readers, characters and ideas.

Connectives words we use in between sentences to join them

allow us to be more precise about the relationships between statements

Audience Positioning When discussing audience, you can also use the words 'reader' or 'viewer'

Theories in Judging Art

Imitation-alism	It is when people think that art should imitate what we see in real world .
Formalism	It is when people feel that art uses the principles of design and the elements of art.
Emotionalism	It is when people believe that art must speak to the viewer through their emotions .

Key Elements for a Strong Thesis Statement

It is not a fact	A fact is irrefutable. Writing a fact as a thesis makes no argument.
It is not a question	A question does not express one's claim or comment about a topic.
It is not an announcement	avoid saying what you will discuss in the text
It is not too broad	Avoid making vague and confusing thesis statements by making a specific and focused thesis
It is a complete sentence	A phrase does not convey complete ideas or thoughts. Stating the thesis in a complete sentence makes it easier for the reader to understand the main idea of the text.

Key Elements for a Strong Thesis Statement (cont)

It requires support	Facts, surveys, reports, etc. should be used as proof or pieces of evidence to support your claim/opinion on the topic to make it persuasive
It takes a stand	The thesis should clearly show your claim about a subject/topic
It is arguable	The thesis should be contestable, debatable, or argumentative. It should never be a factual statement.

Parts of a Critique Paper

Introduction

- Introduce the work and author
- Define main argument or purpose
- Explain context of the work being evaluated
- Construct a concluding sentence with signposts

Body

- Summary (shorter than the critical evaluation)
- Critical Evaluation

Conclusion (brief paragraph)

- overall evaluation of the work
- short recall of the key reasons why this evaluation was formed

Parts of a Critique Paper (cont)

in some circumstances, recommendations for improvement of the work may be provided

it is important to take note that new ideas or concepts related to the work should no longer be introduced or discussed in this section

Reference List

humss/abm/tvl : american psychological association (APA)

stem : council of science editors (cse)