Critical Writing

Descriptive Writing

Descriptive writing involves reporting information and stating facts and ideas. Descriptive writing can be used to:

- Provide context/background on a topic
- Present a case study on a person, group or organisation
- Introduce an event or experience
- Outline a problem or issue
- Summarise research

Although some level of descriptive writing is needed within your work, you should only include what is necessary.

Critical Writing

Critical writing requires you to begin to interpret and dissect the information that you have presented and begin to outline the significance and relevance of it.

Writing critically involves:

- Getting under the surface
- Examining the strengths and weaknesses
- Breaking down various arguments
- Offering solutions and alternative

You can explore critical writing as a three step process: Description, Analysis and Evaluation.

Model of Critical Writing

- Description
  - What?
  - When?
  - Who?
  - Where?
- Analysis
  - Why?
  - How?
  - What if?
- Evaluation
  - So what?
  - What next?
Critical Writing

Critiquing Literature

Before you begin your critique of the literature, you first have to ensure that you have a good understanding of it. It will be difficult to critique the literature if you cannot make sense of it.

You may wish to include a brief summary of the literature but you should mainly focus on analysing and evaluating the literature itself.

To help you draw relevant information from the literature, you may find it useful to ask questions of the text.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions to consider</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Who is the author?</td>
<td>Consider who they are within the field you are exploring</td>
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<tr>
<td>What is the main aim of the paper?</td>
<td>Identify what the author is attempting to achieve within their work</td>
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<tr>
<td>What methodology was used within the paper?</td>
<td>Consider whether the most appropriate approach was used to conduct the research.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What evidence is used to support the conclusions?</td>
<td>If the author did not conduct primary research, consider whether the evidence that they have used is relevant to their original aims.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What results and conclusions are drawn?</td>
<td>Consider whether there is a logical link between the results and conclusions. If not, identify the disparities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the strengths and weaknesses of the paper?</td>
<td>Consider what did the paper do well and what did the paper omit/fail to consider?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there any gaps in the research?</td>
<td>Consider any relevant areas that the paper failed to address</td>
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