

HOW TO WRITE A REVIEW OF A SCHOLARLY ARTICLE

A critical review of an article should focus on specific details of the article and a detailed analysis of the article. This is the general outline you should follow:

1. Introduction

Begin your paper by describing the journal article and authors you are critiquing. Give the article title in quotation marks, the author(s) name(s), and the year the article was written. If you think it's appropriate give a very brief overview of the authors' credentials. Provide the *thesis* (the main idea, claim, or hypothesis) of the paper and explain why you think the article is relevant or worth reviewing.

2. Article Summary

Provide a brief summary of the article, outlining the *main points, results and discussion*. Focus on giving the reader an overall idea of *all* of the authors' main points, using *specific* detail. Use citations for *all* information that comes from the article.

3. Your Analysis

In this section, you should provide your critique of the article. Describe any problems you had with the authors' premise, methods, or conclusions. Your critique might focus on problems with the authors' argument or presentation or on information and alternatives that have been overlooked. Organize your paper carefully and be careful not to jump around from one argument to the next. Argue one point at a time. Doing this will ensure that your paper flows well and is easy to read.

4. Conclusion

Your critique paper should end with an overview of the article's argument, your conclusions, and your reactions.

NOTES:

You will need citations throughout your paper. This website has some very nice models you can follow to see how to gracefully acknowledge your source:

<http://rasmussen.libanswers.com/faq/32328>

- Completely eliminate all "filler" sentences such as "This is a great article" or "This is very useful." If you can drop a sentence into any paper on any topic, it is a filler sentence and does not belong in your paper. Stick to specific details, discussion, and analysis.
- Giving your opinion ON THE ARTICLE is different from giving your opinion ON THE TOPIC. A critical review *focuses on the article* and what you think are legitimate, valid, and supportable (with evidence) strengths and weaknesses of the author(s) points, not how you feel about the topic, and not how you feel when reading the article.
- Avoid process-type information. Unless your instructor *specifically* asked you to, do not explain how you obtained your article, how you read it, how you understood it, or anything else related to the process you went through to achieve the paper you are now writing. Rule of thumb: avoid mentioning yourself.