



Planning My Critical Analysis

Step 1: Identify Your Topic

Which assessment are you currently working on?

What is your main argument, discussion point, or research question?

Step 2: Find Descriptive Sections

Look through your assignment plan or draft.

Which sections currently describe information rather than analyse it?

Examples:

- Explaining a theory
- Describing a technology
- Reporting statistics
- Summarising a journal article

Write down 2-3 areas:

1.

2.

3.

Step 3: Ask Critical Questions

For each area identified above, ask:

Strengths

- What works well?
- What are the benefits?

Limitations

- What are the weaknesses?
- What doesn't this explain?

Alternative Views

- What might another researcher argue?
- Are there competing approaches?

Evidence

- What evidence supports this?
- Does all research agree?

Application

- Does this work in every situation?
- Who benefits and who might not?

Step 4: Using Data Critically

If your assessment includes data, statistics, reports, surveys, or research findings:

Ask Yourself

- ☐ What does the data show?
- ☐ What does the data NOT show?
- ☐ Is there another explanation?
- ☐ How reliable is the source?
- ☐ What assumptions are being made?
- ☐ What information is missing?
- ☐ Does this prove causation or only correlation?

Step 5: Build Critical Sentences

Use these sentence starters:

Introducing evidence

- Research suggests that...
- Evidence indicates that...
- Studies have shown that...

Introducing limitations

- However, a limitation is...
- Despite these benefits...
- This may not apply in all situations because...

Introducing alternative viewpoints

- In contrast, other researchers argue...
- An alternative perspective is...
- Others suggest that...

Making judgements

- This suggests that...
- Therefore, it can be argued that...
- Overall, the evidence indicates that...

Step 6: Create an Action Plan

One section where I need more evidence:

One section where I need more evaluation:

One section where I need to discuss limitations:

One section where I need to consider an alternative viewpoint:

Final Reflection

Before submitting your assessment, ask:

Have I:

Explained the issue?

Used evidence?

Questioned assumptions?

Discussed strengths and limitations?

Considered alternative viewpoints?

Made a reasoned judgement?

Applied ideas to the context of my assignment?