Critical Analytical Essay Outline

In a **critical analysis** essay, you systematically **evaluate a work's effectiveness** including what it does well and what it does poorly. It can be used to discuss a book, article or even a film. You must read the piece carefully and may need to look up terms or concepts you are unfamiliar with or research related reading prior to writing your essay.

Introduction	• state the title of the work, the author's name and the date of publication • outline main ideas of the book and identify the author's thesis • state your own thesis statement and your main idea about the work The novella, *The Metamorphosis*, by Frank Kafka is an excellent story because the author… The article "Narratives of intercultural transformation" by Ingrid Adams is informative and insightful because the author…
Summary	• briefly outline the main ideas of the book, article or film • should involve who, what, where, when, why and how • you may also choose to discuss the structure, style or point of view *This book is about…* *The author argues that…* *The setting is…* *The research was…* *The main character…* *The main points are…* *The theme is…* *The authors conclude…*

Analysis	• critically state what you like and do not like about the book, article or film
	• explain your ideas with specific examples from the book, article or film
	• assess whether the author has achieved their intended goal
	• the analysis may look at whether the work is
	   ▪ *focused, understandable, persuasive, clear, informative*
	   ▪ *original, exciting, interesting, well-written*
	   ▪ *directed at the appropriate audience, meeting the purpose*
	   ▪ *well researched, with appropriate conclusions, and more…*
	The analysis is made up of several different paragraphs.

Conclusion	• restate your thesis in new words • summarize your main ideas if possible with new and stronger words • include a call to action for your reader *You must read this book because … or This article is not useful because…*

Remember **critical analysis should be fun**! This is your chance to say what you think about a piece, but you must back up your opinions with supporting arguments and specific details from the text.