HOW TO WRITE A CRITIQUE

WHAT IS A CRITIQUE?

A critique is a paper that gives a critical assessment of a book or article.

STEPS

- Begin by reading the book or article and annotate as you read.
- Note the author's main point/thesis statement.
- Divide the book/article into sections of thought and write a brief summary of each thought in your own words.

INTRODUCTION

Start your critique with sentences giving the following information:

- Author's name
- Book/Article title and source
- Author's thesis statement

SUMMARY

Summarize the author's purpose and main points/evidence cited that are used for back up.

REVIEW & EVALUATE

To critically review the piece, ask the following questions:

- What are the credentials/areas of expertise of the author?
- Did the author use appropriate methods to gather the evidence?
- Was the evidence used by the author accurate?
- Does the author's use and interpretation of this evidence lead the reader to the same conclusion?
- Did the author build a logical argument?
- Is there other evidence that would support a counter-argument?
- Are the article and the evidence still valid or are they outdated, leading to an invalid conclusion?
- Was the author successful in making his/her point?

CONCLUSION

Wrap up by:

- Stating whether you agree with the author.
- Back up your decisions by stating your reasons.

Give a general opinion of the work.