



Critical Analysis



What is a critical analysis essay?

You are a detective trying to investigate a crime scene.

An essay where you break down what a text is about by examining all of its parts in detail.

Critical analysis

What can be critically analyzed?

Anything written with words:

- Books
- Essays
- Song lyrics
- Movies

What can't be critically analyzed?

Anything that's not written in words:

- Instrumental songs
- Sports games
- People
- Pictures

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Analysis:
Examining
something
critically by
looking at its
separate parts



How to critically analyze

It's all about the theme.

3 steps to find the theme:

1. Observe
2. Interpret
3. Conclude

Step 1: Observe

What is the overarching theme of the text?

What do you see in the text?

Who:

What:

Where:

When:

Why:

Step 1: Observe

What is the genre of the text?

How is the text structured?

Does anything stand out to you? i.e. any repeated words or phrases?

Step 2: Interpret

What questions do you have about the text?

- Are there any words you don't understand? Look them up.
- Are there any phrases or ideas that are confusing?
- Does the text address one thing, but ignore another? Ask why.

Step 3: Conclusion

What is the text saying?

What do you think was the reason the author wrote this text?

Is the text trying to challenge you to do something?

Do it again...

Based on what you now know, what is a possible theme of the text?

1. Observe the theme
2. Interpret the theme
3. Conclude the theme

Practice

“The itsy bitsy spider crawled up the water spout.

Down came the rain, and washed the spider out.

Out came the sun, and dried up all the rain,
and the itsy bitsy spider went up the spout again”

CHARLIE
KIRK

LEFTIST STUDENT CALLS
THE CONSTITUTION "RACIST"



The Declaration of Independence

What is the theme?

Student's claim: freedom for only white people(racist principles)

Charlie Kirk's claim: freedom for all people

Practice

Give a one-sentence summary to each of the following sections of the Declaration of Independence. My summary is at the bottom of each slide. My summaries are not dogma, but see if you agree or disagree along the way.

Practice

“When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.”(Jefferson)

-In other words: When you’re in a bad relationship, eventually you have to cut it off and move on.

“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government...”

-Since human beings have certain rights given by God, if a government violates those rights, it's necessary to overthrow that government and replace it with a better one.

Practice

“The History of the present King of Great-Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.”

-Here's a list of bad things the King has done to us.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good.

-He didn't approve the laws we gave him to approve.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People.

-He would punish us by removing political leaders for disagreeing with him.

He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the Dangers of Invasion from without, and Convulsions within.

-After removing these leaders, he refused to re-elect new ones, making us vulnerable.

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

-British soldiers could literally get away with murder.

He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known Rule of Warfare, is an undistinguished Destruction of all Ages, Sexes and Conditions.

-He encouraged the Native Americans to fight us.

In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble Terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated Injury. A Prince, whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a free People.

-We tried to talk at first, but he wouldn't listen. Since he's literally a tyrant, he shouldn't be allowed to rule people who want to be free.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the Rectitude of our Intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly Publish and Declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States.

-We're done with Britain.

The 2 Themes

Which of these themes fit what we just read in the text?

1. Freedom is only for white people
2. Freedom is for everyone

Freedom is for everyone

“We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.”

-In other words, everyone should be treated equally.

Freedom is only for white people

“He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the Inhabitants of our Frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages...”

In other words, everyone should be treated equally, except for the Native Americans.

Your analysis

How would you analyze this text?

Which theme do you agree with and why?