

# Article Critique Assignments

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ENG 453

Dr. Witte

## WHAT IS AN ARTICLE CRITIQUE?

An article critique is a specific type of reading response that asks you to read, analyze and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of an academic article. Critiques are holistic and examine both the content of the article and the ways in which it is written before rendering an opinion on the validity or worthiness of the article. Ultimately, the purpose of the critique is to determine if the article meets *your* (personal and field-specific) standards of topic selection, evidence, logic and writing style.

## THE ASSIGNMENT

You need to carefully and critically read an article of your choice. You then need to compose a 2-3 page response that

- Briefly identifies the authors, topic, etc. in the introductory paragraph
- Briefly (1 paragraph) summarizes the article
- Makes claims about the **strengths or weaknesses** of the author's claims, evidence or conclusions
- Supports your claims about the author's work with specific, **cited** evidence from the article
- Makes a supported recommendation about whether someone in your field should use this article in his/her own research or writing.

## FORMAT

Your critique should be in essay format, using complete sentences and paragraphs. It should begin with a summary that identifies the article and author. That should be followed by your evaluation of the research and writing of the article, supported by evidence. Finally, you should conclude with a 1 paragraph recommendation, again supported by evidence, about the use of the article.

Your review should contain direct references (quotes, summaries and paraphrases) from the article. You need to correctly cite your summary at the beginning with a signal phrase and in-text citation. All other evidence should be cited in APA format.

Include a correctly formatted APA-style Works Cited entry at the end of your paper. (It doesn't need to be on its own page.)

## ARTICLE CHOICES

The article choice is up to you. Using the skills you've gained as a researcher and writer, locate an appropriate **research-based** article that reports on a **SINGLE research study** in the library's databases. It's in your best interest to choose articles that you might be able to use for your literature review and your research report.

You must send me a PDF of the article by **Sunday** before the Critique is due for approval. You may not choose the same article as someone else in the class, so if you have something you'd like to write about, you need to send me your choice promptly.

## **IMPORATANT DATES**

### **Critique #1**

- Sunday 9/17 Article Choice and PDF Due by email (wittea@trine.edu)
- Thursday 9/21 Final Article Critique #1 due to Moodle

### **Critique #2**

- Sunday 9/24 Article Choice and PDF Due by email (wittea@trine.edu)
- Thursday 9/28 Final Article Critique #2 due to Moodle

### **Critique #3**

- Sunday 10/1 Article Choice and PDF Due by email (wittea@trine.edu)
- Thursday 10/5 Final Article Critique #3 due to Moodle

	<b>Content &amp; Purpose</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Presentation &amp; Design</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>An A Critique (45-50 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly summarizes the article so that someone who had not read it could fully understand the research questions, methods, findings and conclusions</li> <li>Clearly evaluates the merit of the research and writing, using appropriate evidence from the article for support</li> <li>Clearly provides a recommendation about the use of the article, using appropriate evidence from the article and evaluation as support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presents a clear summary at the beginning so that readers can understand the claims that follow</li> <li>Presents information/claims in the order a reader needs to understand the information that follows</li> <li>Concludes with a strong, clear, easily identifiable recommendation</li> <li>Consistently uses transitions to guide reader from topic to topic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistently integrates evidence from articles using signal phrases</li> <li>Correctly cites all evidence in-text</li> <li>Cites the article correctly at the end of the paper</li> <li>Has no noticeable errors in grammar or spelling</li> <li>Correctly formats headers, headings and titles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is at least 2-3 pages, double spaced</li> </ul>
<b>A B Critique (40-44.5 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly clearly summarizes the article so that someone who had not read it could fully understand the research questions, methods, findings and conclusions with a few minor omissions</li> <li>Mostly clearly evaluates the merit of the research and writing, using appropriate evidence from the article for support with a few spots where the evidence is inappropriate or insufficient</li> <li>Mostly clearly provides a recommendation about the use of the article, using appropriate evidence from the article and evaluation as support with a few spots where the evidence is inappropriate or insufficient</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presents a mostly clear summary at the beginning so that readers can understand the claims that follow with a few parts out of order or missing</li> <li>Mostly presents information/claims in the order a reader needs to understand the information that follows with a few minor lapses</li> <li>Concludes with a mostly strong, clear, easily identifiable recommendation with a few spots that do not fit a recommendation</li> <li>Mostly consistently uses transitions to guide reader from topic to topic with a few spots where transitions are unclear or omitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mostly consistently integrates evidence from article using signal phrases with only a few lapses</li> <li>Mostly correctly cites all evidence in-text with only a few minor issues</li> <li>Mostly cites the article correctly at the end of the paper with only a few minor issues</li> <li>Has a few minor noticeable errors in grammar or spelling</li> <li>mostly correctly formats headers, headings and titles with only a few lapses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is at least 2-3 pages, double spaced</li> </ul>

	<b>Content &amp; Purpose</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Presentation &amp; Design</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>A C Critique (35-39.5 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally clearly summarizes the article so that someone who had not read it could fully understand the research questions, methods, findings and conclusions with some omissions</li> <li>• Generally clearly evaluates the merit of the research and writing, using appropriate evidence from the article for support with some spots where the evidence is inappropriate or insufficient</li> <li>• Generally clearly provides a recommendation about the use of the article, using appropriate evidence from the article and evaluation as support with some spots where the evidence is inappropriate or insufficient OR where the recommendation is unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presents a generally clear summary at the beginning so that readers can understand the claims that follow with some parts out of order or missing</li> <li>• Generally presents information/claims in the order a reader needs to understand the information that follows with some minor lapses</li> <li>• Concludes with a generally strong, clear, easily identifiable recommendation with some spots that do not fit a recommendation</li> <li>• Generally consistently uses transitions to guide reader from topic to topic with some spots where transitions are unclear or omitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally integrates evidence from article using signal phrases with some lapses</li> <li>• Generally correctly evidence from article in-text with only some minor or a few major issues</li> <li>• Generally cites the article correctly at the end of the paper some minor or a few major issues</li> <li>• Has some minor and/or a few major noticeable errors in grammar or spelling</li> <li>• Generally correctly formats headers, headings and titles with some lapses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is at least 2-3 pages, double spaced</li> </ul>
<b>A D Critique (30-34.5 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somewhat clearly summarizes the article so that someone who had not read it could fully understand the research questions, methods, findings and conclusions with many omissions</li> <li>• Somewhat clearly evaluates the merit of the research and writing, using appropriate evidence from the article for support with many spots where the evidence is inappropriate or insufficient</li> <li>• Somewhat clearly provides a recommendation about the use of the article, using appropriate evidence from the article and evaluation as support with many spots where the evidence is inappropriate or insufficient OR where the recommendation is unclear</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presents a somewhat clear summary at the beginning so that readers can understand the claims that follow with many parts out of order or missing</li> <li>• Somewhat presents information/claims in the order a reader needs to understand the information that follows with many lapses</li> <li>• Concludes with a recommendation with many spots that do not fit a recommendation or has a conclusion that is not a recommendation</li> <li>• Somewhat consistently uses transitions to guide reader from topic to topic with many spots where transitions are unclear or omitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somewhat integrates evidence from the article using signal phrases with many lapses</li> <li>• Somewhat correctly cites evidence from the article in-text with many minor or some major issues</li> <li>• Generally cites the article correctly at the end of the paper with many minor or some major issues</li> <li>• Has many minor and/or some major noticeable errors in grammar or spelling</li> <li>• Has generally incorrectly formatted headers, headings and titles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is not at least 2-3 pages, double spaced</li> </ul>

	<b>Content &amp; Purpose</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Presentation &amp; Design</b>	<b>Requirements</b>
<b>An F Critique (Less than 30 points)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimally or never summarizes the article so that someone who had not read it could fully understand the research questions, methods, findings and conclusions with numerous omissions</li> <li>Minimally or never evaluates the merit of the research and writing, using appropriate evidence from the article for support with numerous spots where the evidence is inappropriate or insufficient</li> <li>Minimally or never provides a recommendation about the use of the article, using appropriate evidence from the article and evaluation as support with numerous spots where the evidence is inappropriate or insufficient OR where the recommendation is unclear or absent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presents a minimally clear summary at the beginning so that readers can understand the claims that follow with numerous parts out of order or missing</li> <li>Minimally or never presents information/claims in the order a reader needs to understand the information that follows with numerous lapses</li> <li>Concludes with a recommendation that is difficult to identify or understand or has a conclusion that is not a recommendation</li> <li>Minimally or never consistently uses transitions to guide reader from topic to topic with numerous spots where transitions are unclear or omitted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimally or never integrates evidence from the article using signal phrases</li> <li>Fails to correctly cite evidence from the article in-text</li> <li>Fails to cite the article at the end of the paper</li> <li>Has numerous minor and major noticeable errors in grammar or spelling</li> <li>Incorrectly formats headers, headings and titles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is not at least 2-3 pages, double spaced</li> </ul>