

Writing a Critique (Summary & Response)

These are some points to keep in mind:

- The essence of a critique is to **summarize** and **respond** to the article.
- Your response becomes your thesis.
- Your first paragraph should include the author and title of the article, and your thesis. If the article is short, include your summary in the first paragraph.

To write a **summary** of the article you are using, read the article several times. While you are reading, keep the following questions in mind:

What does the author want me to know about this topic?
What information does she/he give me about this topic?

Essentially, you are looking for the author's main points and his/her thesis. Once you understand the author's thesis, you will be able to respond to this thesis and create your **own** thesis (response) for your critique.

When summarizing the article you are critiquing, first, try writing down the main points you remember from the article without consulting the article. After you have written down some ideas, go back to the article and search for important ideas or points that you may have omitted. This technique may help you realize what points are necessary for the summary and what points are not as important.

For your **response** or critique, you can choose to do a point-by-point analysis or a block analysis:

Point by Point: In a point by point analysis, you summarize and respond in each paragraph. Each paragraph covers one point. In this approach, your paper will have multiple rhetorical shifts (summary, response, summary, response, etc.).

Block: In a block analysis, you begin by discussing the author's point of view of **all** the points you intend to discuss and then, in a separate paragraph or paragraphs, you write your response. In this approach, your paper will have a single rhetorical shift (summary with several points, response with several points).