

CRITICAL WRITING

Write in a critical (rather than a descriptive) style

Being too descriptive is the main weakness identified in student work. However, in most assignments, some description is necessary; for example for background.

Look at your subject from multiple perspectives

Look at both sides of arguments and issues – their strengths and weaknesses.

Show a clear line of reasoning (argument) which leads to your conclusions

To keep you focused, continually refer back to the assignment title and your plan of the middle section, revising the plan as necessary as your work progresses.

Link your arguments together in a logical order, with supporting evidence (see below).

Present evidence to support your arguments

Make sure that the evidence you use is:

- sufficient to support your arguments
- unbiased, with no hidden agendas
- recent enough for its purpose
- reliable.

Choose a few key pieces of evidence which clearly support your arguments.

Link your arguments together in a logical order.

Read your own writing critically

When checking and editing your work, apply the same principles to critically reading your own writing, as you do to critically reading someone else's.