

# Critical Analysis

A portion of analytical thinking requires the critic to break down aspects of another writer's opinions. This can be achieved by:

- sum up the main points of an article
- determine the level of bias within the piece
- confirm if both sides of an issue are treated fairly
- acknowledge if the author proposes a compromise or a preference
- check the author's credentials and background

I. In the Library Database, from the Academic Search Complete or InfoTrac database, select an article relevant to a possible topic of interest for your final research paper.

- A. Do not select material which states the article is a *review* or an *overview* of an issue.
- B. Do not select material over ten pages.

## II. Objectives

1. *Confirm subject matter and comprehension of material.*
2. At the top of the page, state the journal title and date of publication.
3. Read the chosen article, highlighting key phrases and points discussed by the critic.
4. In 300 words (1 page) create a synopsis of the essay.
  - Explain the author's main points and show his/her major defenses.
  - State what evidence is used as defense; sum up the basic idea of article.
  - Does the author show a bias towards either side of the issue?
  - What does the author resolve in the conclusion of the piece?
  - Based on your own reading of the material, do you agree/disagree with the critic's opinions?
  - Be sure to show proper citation of quoted/paraphrased material.
  - Use at least one quote of major importance.
  - Supply correct MLA work cited entry at base of your paper

III. Print out your reply in MLA format.

Print out article with your responses, STAPLED together.

DUE: 10/28.

# article synopsis