



Critique/Review of Research Articles

At the basic level, a critical analysis begins with questions like those set out by Taylor (2009):

What is the author's motivation in writing this work?

- x Agreeing with, defending or confirming a particular point of view
- x Proposing a new point of view
- x Conceding to an existing point of view, but qualifying certain points
- x Reformulating an existing idea for a better explanation
- x Dismissing a point of view through an evaluation of its criteria
- x Reconciling two seemingly different points of view

How does the author approach the subject matter? What kinds of words does he or she

Table 1: Elements of a Critique and Questions to Consider

Elements of a Research Critique	Questions to Ask and Information to Include
Identifying Information to Include	<p>Where and when was the article published? Who wrote the article?</p> <p>What was the purpose of the study? What was the nature of the study (e.g., a case study, ethnography, a content analysis, or an experimental study)?</p> <p>What is the analytical approach or theoretical framework (e.g., a feminist analysis, a critical analysis, an application of a specific theoretical model)?</p>
Research Design and Methodology ⁴	<p>How does the method reflect or augment other studies of the same topic?</p> <p>What makes this method feasible? How realistic is it?</p> <p>Why will this method produce data that will answer the research question?</p> <p>How does the method address questions of validity?</p> <p>How does the researcher overcome the limitations of the method? Are there large limitations or minor ones? How will these limitations affect your ability to use this data to answer your research question?</p> <p>Was the research conducted ethically and following tri-council guidelines?</p>
Interpretation of Findings	<p>Did the researcher find a correlation (relationship) or a cause?</p> <p>Are there alternative interpretations of the findings?</p> <p>How</p>