

Critical Review guidelines

- single spaced/typed (12 pt font; regular margins)
- one page only (pts deducted if exceeds page limit)
- Put your name, date, and title of article on top
- A critical review/analysis is different than a review – don't review the article (read "What is a critical review?" on the class website (<http://www.cogsci.ucsd.edu/~pineda/COGS171>))
- deal with ideas and not as much with methodology unless it's a problem
- assume the reader has not read the paper so you want to summarize ideas presented but do so in a few sentences
- React to the arguments made (but don't just base it on feelings or intuition, look up other articles and make it an educated reaction)
- be both positive and critical
- ask questions such as:
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How logical is the argument supporting the hypothesis?

How relevant is the evidence? What type of evidence is used?

Does the research seem objective?

Are the conclusions drawn by the experimenter justified on the basis of the finding?

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- avoid using pronouns (I, we, etc)
- make every word/sentence count (if you can remove it without changing the meaning then it should be removed)
- don't use phrases like "I feel" or "it seems"
- for a review article pick one or two or three ideas to discuss and criticize – don't have to do the entire paper
- feel free to raise questions (without having to answer them)