

Self-Annotation Assignment

To help you review your work in a careful way and reinforce your learning about the key elements of critical analysis writing, perform the following self-annotations:

- 1) You need to mark or circle each element in your text (handwritten or typed).
- 2) Provide an annotation addressing the question posed in the “Annotation Guide.”
- 3) Score the element in the chart below, from 1-5, using the scoring guide at right.

5=Exceptional
4=Effective
3=Acceptable
2=Needs Work
1=Unacceptable

Using this Self-Annotation system properly should help you slow down and pay attention to distinct elements of your work, to make sure you’ve done your best and produced an essay that you will be proud of and pleased with. Once you’ve completed your self-evaluation, seek the assistance of a Learning Center writing tutor or a trusted peer from class for a second opinion.

Conceptual Elements of a Critical Analysis	Description	Annotation Guide: Question	Self Assess Score (1 - 5, see above)	Peer Eval. Score (1 - 5, see above)
Introduces a Theme (not just a topic)	A theme is a claim about how the subject works in the text; a debatable opinion about the subject; an abstract concept articulating what the work is about; an underlying meaning within the work, often a truth or insight about life—not necessarily something intended by the author	Does the essay introduce a theme rather than merely a topic? Is your argument or claim about the topic clear?		
Makes a Claim	To make a claim, you must stick your neck out, articulate a position that is debatable, something that not everyone will agree with.	Is the claim something that needs to be argued/justified, rather than a fact or something obvious? Does the claim seek to answer a how or why question?		
Supplies Evidence	Details and examples (including indirect reference to or direct quotation from the text) to support your paragraph’s claim.	Mark and label each piece of supporting evidence. Is it clear how the evidence supports the point you are making?		

(continued)

Formal Elements of an Academic Essay	Description	Annotation Guide: Question	Self Assess Score (1 - 5, see above)	Peer Eval. Score (1 - 5, see above)
(1) Title	Captures what is unique or distinctive about your work.	Does your title specifically name what your essay is about? (not in a generic/general way?)		
(2) Intro. Paragraph				
(2a) Opener	First sentence finds a way to draw readers in.	How does your opening sentence seek to engage readers?		
(2b) Thesis	States the main argumentative claim of the essay.			
(3) 1 st Body Paragraph				
(3a) Topic sentence	Paragraph's first sentence introduces the main idea of the paragraph ahead, makes a claim that the rest of the paragraph works to support.	Does the paragraph's first sentence effectively introduce the main claim and overall idea of the paragraph to come?		
(3b) ¶ Unity	All of the sentences in the paragraph are unified around a main idea.	Reread the entire paragraph: does every sentence contribute to the paragraph's overall idea?		
(3c) Transitions	Connections not only between paragraphs but from sentence-to-sentence within paragraphs to show the relationship between ideas.	Mark transition words. Have you signaled transitions to connect ideas between the sentences in the paragraph?		
(3d) Concluding sentence	A final sentence that usually reiterates or sums up the paragraph's claim.	Does your last sentence effectively wrap up the paragraph by connecting back to the main idea?		
[recommended: repeat # 3 for each body paragraph]				
(4) Quotation / Citation				
(4a) Integrating quotations	Do not just drop quotations into your text. Smoothly incorporate all quotations using signal words. For further info., click here .	Have you integrated the quotation smoothly and effectively into your text?		
(4b) Format for in-text citations	For info. on formatting MLA-style Works Cited or in-text citations, visit the Purdue online writing lab, searching "purdue owl works cited"	Does each quotation (direct or indirect) contain a citation to the author and page # of the source being cited?		
(4c) Works Cited page		Is full information provided for each source? Is the bibliography correctly formatted?		
(4d) Uses quotation marks, underlining, italics properly	For info. on when to use italics, underlining, quotation marks, click here .	Is your use of quotation marks, underlining, and italics correct?		