

# Critique Skeleton

**Directions:** If you follow these directions, you shall write a good critique of a item, book, essay, event, or person. The first step is to write the second paragraph. The second step is to write third paragraph. The third step is to write the first paragraph and combine the strongest strength and weakness to make the thesis sentence. Then, complete the critique skeleton, and make sure you have (at least) the proper number of sentences. The final step is to copy the sentences from the skeleton onto a clean sheet of lined paper. Remember to indent each paragraph at least half an inch, and to check for spelling or punctuation errors. The title should be centered on the top line of the final copy.

## I. First Paragraph (three sentences)

Introduction sentence (this sentence introduces the subject of the item to be critiqued to the reader. It is a general statement about the subject of the item, but does not mention the item.)

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Summary sentence (this sentence identifies the item and summarizes it in one sentence. If possible, include the date the item was created in parentheses immediately behind the name of the item.)

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**THESIS SENTENCE** (this sentence is the backbone of the paper. It consists of the item's greatest strength, a conjunction\*, then the item's greatest weakness.)

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## II. Second Paragraph (four sentences that describe the item's strengths)

First topic sentence is:

**This \_\_\_\_\_ has several strengths.**

Three supporting sentences (these three sentences support, explain, or give examples of three strengths of the item and the greatest strength shall be last. Include a quote or a description of an event in the item to support your statements.)

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## III. Third Paragraph (four sentences that describe the item's weaknesses)

Second topic sentence is:

**This \_\_\_\_\_ has several weaknesses.**

Three supporting sentences (these three sentences support, explain, or give examples of three weaknesses of the item and the greatest weakness shall be last. Include a quote or a description of an event in the item to support your statements.)

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**IV. Fourth Paragraph (four sentences of your opinion)**

Third topic sentence is:

**I believe this \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Three supporting sentences (these three sentences support, explain, or give examples why the third topic sentence is true. Be very specific.

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**V. Conclusion Paragraph (four sentences)**

Summary sentences (these are three sentences that summarize the strengths and weaknesses presented in the second and third paragraphs, but are not mentioned in the thesis sentence.)

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**Conclusion sentence** (this sentence is the thesis sentence re-stated or it is a version of the thesis that uses different words to express the same meaning. It can also be a deep thought on the subject of the item. The conclusion sentence is always part of the fifth paragraph and it is the last sentence in the critique.)

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**\*CONJUNCTIONS that can be used in the thesis sentence (select only one):**

- , but**
- ; however,**
- , although**

**, on the other hand,  
, unfortunately**

**Sample thesis sentence that uses a strength, a conjunction, and a weakness from a critique about Dr. Johnson:**

Dr. Johnson likes to explain grammar concepts, but she needs to develop better time management skills.

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