

Critical Reading and Writing

Online course learning objectives

The reading and writing expectations of higher education is often daunting for new students. This course equips students with the skills and knowledge to make the jump to higher education. It teaches reading strategies to evaluate, and question written and visual texts. It builds confidence in structuring a critical writing piece, spelling out arguments and integrating evidence.

This course will help learners to:

- Establish the value and purpose of critical reading and writing
- Prepare for and understand the jump in university expectations
- Recognise the difference between reading for pleasure and reading critically, clarifying the purpose of their reading for a particular piece of work
- Read and critically appraise academic literature and other forms of text and understand some conventions of academic writing
- Search for and evaluate relevant material, recognising different types of information
- Plan and prepare their writing for academic purposes
- Structure a critical writing piece presenting a compelling argument and using evidence to support their argument.

Language: English

Time to complete: 2 hours

Level: Beginner

Instructor: Dr Eric Addae-Kyeremeh

Online course full syllabus

MODULE ONE: BEING CRITICAL: WHAT, HOW AND WHY

This module will explore the concept of criticality and academic critique and what this means for university study or academic life.

Topics:

1. What do we mean by criticality?
2. The link between critical thinking, reading, and writing
3. What is expected from me at university?
4. Checkpoint

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MODULE TWO: BEING A CRITICAL READER

This module will explore the concept of critical reading and how to do it well.

Topics:

1. Reading for pleasure vs critical reading
2. How to read information critically
3. Reading for a particular piece of work

MODULE THREE: SELECTING AND EVALUATING READING

This module will explore some strategies that will help students read academic text in an efficient way.

Topics:

1. Different ways of reading
2. Selecting relevant material
3. Preparing to read
4. Tools and techniques: concept mapping

MODULE FOUR: PREPARING TO WRITE CRITICALLY

This module will give students the knowledge and skills to get them started. It will explore critical writing and some practical steps they can take to hone their writing skills.

Topics:

1. What's expected from you?
2. The difference between descriptive and critical writing
3. Understand assignment requirements and questions

MODULE FIVE: HOW TO WRITE CRITICALLY

This module will explore practical ways and tips on how to present writing in a critical way, looking closely at presenting an argument in writing that is supported by evidence.

Topics:

1. The main stages of writing critically
2. Organize your thoughts
3. Structure your writing
4. Spelling out arguments
5. Integrating evidence