

Critical Thinking Framework

This template helps you deconstruct any academic text or argument by shifting from "What happened?" to "Why does this matter?".



PART 1: THE QUICK SCAN

(Understanding Context)

- **Source/Author:** Who wrote this? What is their background or potential bias?
- **The Main Claim:** In one sentence, what is the author trying to convince me of?
- **Key Evidence:** What data, research, or examples are they using to support that claim?



PART 2: THE DEEP DIVE

(Critical Analysis)

- **Assumptions:** What is the author taking for granted? Are there "unspoken" facts they expect you to believe?
- **The Counter-Argument:** If someone disagreed with this author, what would their strongest point be?
- **Limitations:** Is the evidence outdated? Does it only apply to a specific country or group of people?



PART 3: SYNTHESISING

(Your Academic Voice)

- **The Connection:** How does this relate to what we discussed in the lecture or other readings?
- **The "So What?":** Why is this argument important for the field of study?
- **Your Stance:** Do you agree, disagree, or only partially agree? Why? (Always back this up with evidence).

The "Analysis vs. Summary" Cheat Sheet

Instead of writing a Summary...	Try writing a Critical Response...
"The author says that..."	"The author argues that..., however, this overlooks..."
"The book describes the process of..."	"By focusing on X, the author provides a unique perspective on Y..."
"In conclusion, the result was..."	"While the results show X, the implications suggest that Y might be more likely in the context of..."