Critical Analysis Template

In a critical analysis essay you systematically evaluate a work’s effectiveness including what it does well and what it does poorly. It can be used to discuss a book, article or even a film. You must read the piece carefully and may need to look up terms or concepts you are unfamiliar with or research related reading prior to writing your essay.

**Introduction**
- state the title of the work, the author’s name and the date of publication
- outline main ideas of the book and identify the author’s thesis
- state your own thesis statement and your main idea about the work

The novella, *The Metamorphisis*, by Frank Kafka is an excellent story because the author…
The article “Narratives of intercultural transformation” by Ingrid Adams is informative and insightful because the author…

**Summary**
- briefly outline the main ideas of the book, article or film
- should involve who, what, where, when, why and how
- you may also choose to discuss the structure, style or point of view

*This book is about…*  
The author argues that...
*The setting is…*  
The research was...
*The main character…*  
The main points are...
*The theme is…*  
The authors conclude...

**Analysis**
- critically state what you like and do not like about the book, article or film
- explain your ideas with specific examples from the book, article or film
- assess whether the author has achieved their intended goal
- the analysis may look at whether the work is
  - focused, understandable, persuasive, clear, informative
  - original, exciting, interesting, well-written
  - directed at the appropriate audience, meeting the purpose
  - well researched, with appropriate conclusions, and more...

The analysis is made up of several different paragraphs.

**Conclusion**
- restate your thesis in new words
- summarize your main ideas if possible with new and stronger words
- include a call to action for your reader

*You must read this book because … or This article is not useful because…*

Remember critical analysis should be fun! This is your chance to say what you think about a piece, but you must back up your opinions with supporting arguments and specific details from the text.