

Assessment criteria for critical judgements

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In several of my courses, I will ask you to write a critical judgement of something, say a scientific article. Being critical (in the sense in which this word is used here) means to weigh up factual evidence and sound arguments to form an opinion. While the exact assessment criteria that I apply to critical judgements will vary somewhat with the course and the assignment, the following general criteria should give you a good idea of what aspects I am looking for.

	Below expectation	Simple judgements	Well-developed judgements
<i>How much relevant evidence is the judgement based on?</i>	no evidence, not relevant	some evidence, mostly relevant	extensive evidence, fully relevant
<i>How complex are the arguments that the judgement is based on?</i>	no actual arguments; personal opinion	short reasoning chains; simple arguments	long reasoning chains; nuanced arguments
<i>To what extent does the judgement take different perspectives?</i>	no awareness or understanding of different perspectives	awareness of different perspectives; some pros and cons	several different perspectives; several pros and cons
<i>To what extent does the judgement make use of relevant examples?</i>	no examples or comparisons, not relevant	some examples or comparisons, mostly relevant	several examples or comparisons, fully relevant
<i>To what extent does the judgement include relevant conclusions?</i>	no conclusions, not relevant	some conclusions, mostly relevant	several conclusions, fully relevant
<i>How polished is the language in the judgement?</i>	many errors in grammar and spelling; informal language	few errors in grammar and spelling; mostly academic language	no errors in grammar and spelling; precise academic language