



CRITICALITY AND ARGUMENTS

Critical writing considers different viewpoints and forms its own conclusions. To improve your marks in this area consider the following:

ANALYSIS VS DESCRIPTION

To make your writing more analytical and less descriptive, make sure you draw conclusions rather than just give information. For example, descriptive writing states facts, explains a theory or lists details. Whereas **analytical writing** identifies the significance of ideas, evaluates its strengths and weaknesses, weighs one piece of information against another or shows the relevance of links between them.

CRITICAL THINKING

Thinking critically about information you find involves analysing all the arguments and weighing up the evidence for them. Can you spot any flaws in the argument? How does it compare with others? Does it contain bias? Questioning the information you have in a critical way goes beyond asking: **What? Where? When? Who?** which will give you descriptive answers. Instead ask yourself: **How? Why? What if? So what?** The 'So what?' question in particular will help you to really evaluate the information.

DEVELOPING AN ARGUMENT

Your argument will develop from your responses to the ideas you are reading about. Consider all the **evidence** and draw your **own conclusions** from it. Then present both sides of the debate along with your thoughts, linking together the different elements. Work towards a conclusion by weighing the evidence and showing how certain ideas win out and why others are rejected.

