

Critical or Descriptive?



Is your writing descriptive or critical? Use this list below to identify how often you are doing each of the following actions and make a tally in the box provided. Please note, some description is necessary, but it should be balanced with an appropriate amount of critical, analytical writing.

Overall Aim	Descriptive Writing	Critical Writing
Introducing ideas, concepts and information	Provides information	Evaluates (judges the value) of the information
	Explains what a theory says	Shows why something is relevant or suitable
	States what something is like	Evaluates its strengths and weaknesses
Introducing processes, chronologies or orders	States what happened	Identifies the significance of what happened
	States the order in which things happened	Evaluates the process
	Says when something occurred	Identifies why timing is important
Synthesising multiple items of evidence and examples	Lists multiple pieces of information	Evaluates the relative values of the information
	States the different components	Weighs up the importance of component parts
	States links between items	Shows the relevance of links and connections
Introducing approaches, options and outcomes	States how to do something	Argues why an approach is appropriate
	States options	Gives reasons for the selection of each option
	Summarises findings or outcomes	Draws conclusions based on findings or outcomes