

Critique Models

FICTION

Use with stories, novels, plays, movies, and narrative poems—anything that follows the Story Sequence Chart. With longer books, narrow to either a main plot or a chapter of the book.

I. Introduction	Begin with an attention getter. Give basic information about the book: title, author (background about author and his time), period that the story is set, publisher, pages, pictures, story type.
II. Characters and Setting	Describe the time and place where the story occurs. Tell the name, personality, and purpose of the main characters in the story.
III. Plot or Problem	State the main problem in the story. Explain what the main character wants and what they think, say, or do to solve (or fail to solve) the problem.
IV. Climax and Resolution	Describe the action at the turning point in the story—how the problem is resolved and the outcomes of the main characters.
V. Conclusion Liked? Disliked? Why? Message/Theme No “I”	Like/dislike? Why? Answer questions: What, if anything, does this story teach? (Theme, Moral) What is most effective, least effective, and why? Never use “I.” Words from essay clincher repeated in title.

STORY
SEQUENCE
CHART
(UNIT 3)

NON-FICTION

Use with history, science, theology, biography, geography, how-to books.

- Do not feel compelled to tell every detail.
- While reading, look for possible topics.
- Mark pages, underlining or highlighting interesting or important facts.

I. Introduction	Give basic information about the book: title, author (background about author), publisher, pages, and state 3 topics.
II. Topic A	Give 5–7 details (facts) about one of the topics presented in the book. Choose what is interesting or important. Comment.
III. Topic B	Give 5–7 details (facts) about one of the topics presented in the book. Choose what is interesting or important. Comment.
IV. Topic C	Give 5–7 details (facts) about one of the topics presented in the book. Choose what is interesting or important. Comment.
V. Conclusion Restate topics Analyze (most/why) No “I”	Restate 3 topics. Analyze the writing style, ease of reading, interest, and value of information. As appropriate, use selected short quotations from the book to exemplify a point of analysis. Answer questions: What is most important? Why? Any errors? What is most effective, least effective, and why? Words from essay clincher repeated in title.

TOPICAL
PARAGRAPHS
(UNIT 4)

Critique Thesaurus

Introduction

Story tale, saga, narrative, epic, legend, mystery, tragedy, comedy, romance, novel, yarn, anecdote, myth

Type sad, nature, science fiction, love, adventure, historical, horror, folk, fairy, animal, moral, space, descriptive

Characters players, actors, heroes, personae, participants, figures, villain, victim, protagonist, antagonist, static, foil, dynamic, flat, round

Role main, central, leading, major, minor, subordinate, lesser, supporting, shadowy, background, secondary, foil

Types adventurous, tragic, comic, bumbling, retiring, extroverted, pliant, scheming, sordid, acquisitive, inquisitive, impulsive, sinister

Analysis well- or poorly-drawn, convincing, fully or underdeveloped, consistent, lifeless, too perfect, overly evil, idyllic

Setting

Time long ago, ancient or biblical times, Middle Ages or medieval, modern, contemporary, futuristic, mythical

Place rural, urban, small town, frontier, pioneer, war, space, slums, ghetto, exotic

Mood mysterious, foreboding, tragic, bland, comic, violent, suspenseful, compelling, sad, supernatural, emotional

Conflict

Stages initiated, promoted, continued, expanded, resolved

Intensity exacerbated, heightened, lessened

Analysis over- or under-played, realistic or unrealistic, convincing, contrived, stretched, sketchy

Plot plan, conspiracy, scheme, intrigue, subplot, sequence of events, action, narrative, episode, unfolds

Climax turning point, most exciting moment, dramatic event, high point, crisis, anticlimactic, inevitable conclusion

Theme message, moral, lesson, topic, sub-theme, matter, subject

Literary Techniques foreshadowing, symbolism, quality of language, short sentences, repetition, revelation of subplot to the narrative, suspense