

How is descriptive writing different from critical writing?

DESCRIPTIVE WRITING	CRITICAL WRITING
States what happened <i>The global financial crisis started in 2007 and continued for several years, leading to widespread recession in many countries around the world (RBA, 2018).</i>	Identifies the significance of what happened <i>The 2008 global financial crisis, which caused several banks to incur massive losses (RBA, 2018), was significant because it led to major policy changes such as....</i>
Explains a situation <i>The global financial crisis was caused by widespread defaults on loan payments by US mortgage holders who had borrowed more than they could afford to repay (Zynevsky, 2019).</i>	Questions existing explanations of a situation and examines alternative explanations <i>Although the standard reason given for the global financial crisis is the willingness of banks to offer increasingly risky loans (Zynevsky, 2019), another possible explanation is that...</i>
Outlines a theory or argument <i>The behaviourist theory of learning states that people respond in predictable ways to certain stimuli based either on automatic reflex or on conditioning caused by punishments or rewards (Lee, 2020).</i>	Evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of the evidence supporting the theory or argument <i>Although there are situations where people automatically respond to stimuli in predictable ways (Lee, 2020), behaviourism seems to ignore people's ability to consider and choose from a range of different responses.</i>



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Lists ideas or perspectives on the topic from various experts <i>Smith (2018) states that social media is an effect tool for encouraging intercultural communication. Jones (2020) suggests that...</i>	Explains how ideas or perspectives are connected to each other and to the overall topic <i>Whether or not social media is a beneficial tool is greatly contested. Some suggest it is beneficial because....(Smith, 2018). However, others are concerned about....(Jones, 2020).</i>
Gives options <i>One way to encourage better compliance with mask wearing is to communicate the reduced risk of infection through education campaigns. Another way of encouraging compliance is...</i>	Evaluates the various options and explains which option is best and why <i>While education campaigns seem like a good idea, studies show that such campaigns have little effect on behaviour (Wang, 2020; Leopold et al. 2021). Financial penalties, on the other hand, have proven to be the most effective way of changing behaviours because..... (West et al. 2019).</i>
Aims to help the reader understand the topic <i>Human centred care requires health practitioners to communicate clearly with clients, listen to their client's concerns, and treat clients with empathy and compassion (WHO, 2021).</i>	Aims to provide the writer's perspective on the topic and encourage the reader to think more deeply about their own perspective <i>Human centred care is an effective approach because.... In fact, research shows that it improves health outcomes by...(WHO, 2021).</i>