

Identifying and Commenting upon Points of View

An essential part of critical writing[thinking] is arguing and discussing.

When you argue, you need to present your points of view and deal with different points of view. You often need to present two or more points of view and discuss the positive and negative aspects of each case; you need to evaluate them. These other points of view will often come from your reading. On the basis of your evaluation, you can then choose one point of view and persuade your readers that you are correct. This means giving your opinions (positive and negative) on the work of others that you have read and learned.

First you need to present another point of view, perhaps by paraphrasing or summarizing from your reading. You then need to evaluate it, either negatively or positively

Example

Read the following examples [and NOTICE:1) the POV's, and 2)] how the points of view are evaluated (commented upon).

Eccleshall argues that libertarian Conservatism was alive and well in the work of Edmund Burke and in the 'Liberal Toryism' which reached its high point during the premiership of Sir Robert Peel. Yet, as recent work on political economy in the late eighteenth century has shown, it is difficult to establish Adam Smith, let alone Burke, as a 'free marketeer' in anything like the modern sense.

Practice - Can you find the POV and the COMMENT in the following examples....

Cameron (2006) maintains that we could probably become far more healthy by the simple expedient of 'going back in time' in terms of some of our daily activity. We could use a bicycle, walk, or run rather than use a car, bus, or train. Of course, we could all do more domestic tasks by hand rather than using electrically operated gadgets. However, this approach has too many problems to be appealing. After the luxury of labor-saving devices it is just too tedious to go back to the old ways. Also, this is not the most efficient way to build up and maintain a reasonable level of physical fitness. We actually only need to plan three or four exercise sessions a week in order to become fit.

Stalingrad was the greatest single blow of the war. Deep shock, dismay, and depression were recorded everywhere. It was correctly viewed as the low point of wartime morale on the home front.

While agreeing with Jameson's (2003) suggestion that an increase in funding is required to maintain the quality of daily television, it is not enough simply to throw money at the problem.

Language

1) Presenting another point of view

Some people X In a study of Y, X	maintain(s) say(s) argue(s) assert(s) believe(s) claim(s) point(s) out is/are of the opinion seem(s) to believe	that	...
It is the view of X The opinion of X is It can be argued It has been suggested It might be said			
According to X			

2) Commenting on another point of view

2A) Negatively

They He She X This	is/are may be seem(s) to be would seem to be	somewhat rather -	mistaken. wrong. rigid. inadequate.
X's approach position methods beliefs			

This These views	is/are open to doubt. not always the case. not necessarily true. unlikely to be true. highly debatable. incorrect. highly speculative.
	cannot be upheld.

Serious	doubts reservations	can may	be raised against this.
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I disagree with X when he	writes says	that ...
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However, Yet,	it is clear that ...
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One of the main arguments	against	X is that	...
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One disadvantage of	X	is	...
Another point against			
A further argument against			
One other disadvantage of			
One objection to this argument			

Plus negative words: wrong, mistaken, false, erroneous, misplaced, inaccurate, incorrect, debatable, untrue, not the case.

2B) By indicating a gap

One way to negatively evaluate an author is by indicating a lack of knowledge in a particular area

However	little	information attention work research data
	few	studies investigations researchers attempts	

The research The previous research	has	tended to focus on concentrated on	rather than on as opposed to
These studies Most studies	have	emphasized been devoted to			

Although	the research considerable research the previous research	has	tended to focus on concentrated on emphasized been devoted to	...,	rather less attention has been paid to
	these studies most studies	have				

Plus negative words: little, few, inadequate, lack, insufficient, hardly.

2C) Positively

I agree with X when he	writes says	that ...
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X is certainly correct X may be correct	when he	says	that ...
	in saying		

One advantage of Another point in favor of A further argument supporting One other advantage of One of the main arguments in favor of	X	is	...
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Plus positive words: correct, right, accurate.

<http://www.uefap.com/writing/writframevaluate.htm>