**Critical analysis of written argument**

Use the following checklist to analyse texts for assignments – and to evaluate your own writing critically.

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| **Critical questions** | **Analysis of the writing** |
| What is the main line of reasoning (the main thesis or argument)? |  |
| Is the line of reasoning clear both in the introduction and in the conclusion? |  |
| What is the key evidence used to support the line of argument? Is the evidence presented in a way that develops the argument and leads clearly to the conclusion? |  |
| When was the evidence produced? Is it up to date? Is it still relevant? |  |
| Is there sufficient evidence to prove the case? Is the evidence relevant? What might be missing? |  |
| What (if any) would have been a better order in which to present the evidence so as to strengthen the line of reasoning? |  |
| Are there any examples of flawed reasoning? Attempts to persuade the reader through an appeal to the emotions? Is evidence interpreted and used correctly? |  |
| Has the writer given sufficient consideration to alternative points of view? Give examples. |  |