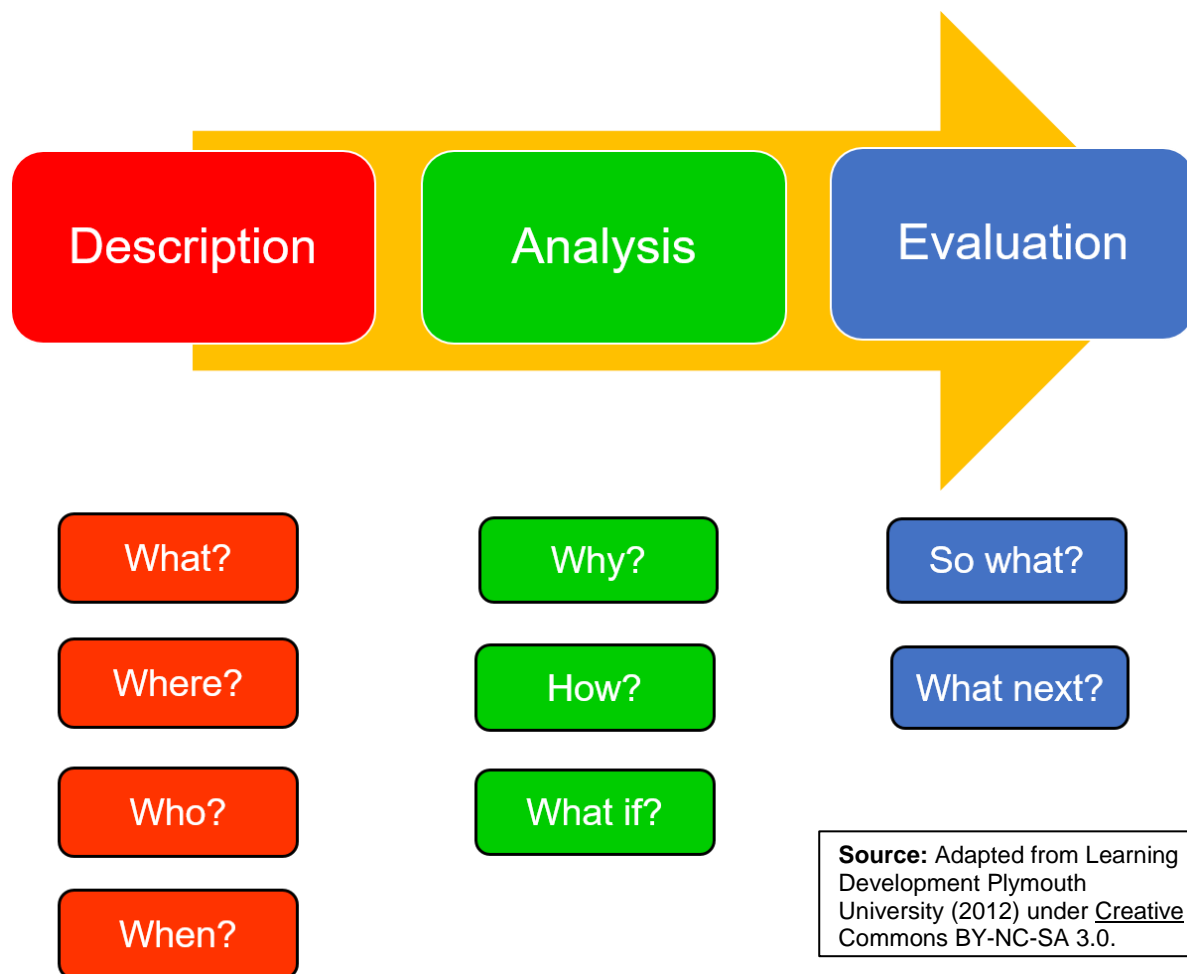


Critical Writing

Critical writing requires you to examine and analyse information in an objective manner in order to support the argument you are making.

The most effective way to structure your work in order to advance your argument is by using the D-A-E framework. This framework demonstrates how you can write critically by using three different 'types' of sentences; descriptive sentences, analytic sentences and evaluative sentences.



Description type sentences are those that answer what, where, who and when questions, e.g. *'Where does this take place?'*, or *'Who is involved?'*

Analysis type sentences should answer why, how and what if type questions, e.g. *'How does one thing affect another?'*, *'What if something had been done differently?'*

Evaluation type sentences outline your conclusions by answering questions like *'So what can be learnt from this?'* or *'What is next in the research field?'*

Example

Have a look at this sample paragraph which demonstrates one student's ability to engage in critical writing. This is a paragraph from an essay exploring whether or not 'Fake News' is a 21st century phenomenon.

Darnton (2017) notes that in 18th Century France 'canards' was the term used to describe fake news. In the 1780s, this included the announcement that a monster with the 'head of a Fury, wings like a bat, a gigantic body covered in scales, and a dragon-like tail' had been captured in Chile. Therefore, false reporting and sensationalism have long existed in society. It is not a 'new' phenomenon. As a result, it may be more accurate to state that the occurrence of fake news in the 21st Century represents the point where we have become more critically aware of the dangers of fake news for society.

Let's break down this paragraph to better understand how it was constructed:

