

The first key to a good critique is a good summary of what the author you are critiquing is saying. Since you will be critiquing "What's Wrong With America And Can Anything Be Done About It?" start by making a list of all of the author's major theses and his reasons for these theses:

1. Thesis 1 (bottom of page 360): \_\_\_\_\_

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a. Reason 1 supporting this idea: \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Reason 2 supporting this idea: \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Reason 3 supporting this idea: \_\_\_\_\_

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d. Reason 4 supporting this idea: \_\_\_\_\_

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e. Reason 5 supporting this idea: \_\_\_\_\_

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f. Reason 6 supporting this idea: \_\_\_\_\_

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g. Reason 7 supporting this idea: \_\_\_\_\_

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h. Reason 8 supporting this idea (p. 364): \_\_\_\_\_

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## 2. Thesis 2: The Solutions

a. Solution 1 (p. 363): \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Solution 2 (p. 363): \_\_\_\_\_

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c. Solution 3 (p. 364): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Solution 4 (p. 364+): \_\_\_\_\_

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e. Solution 5 (p. 365): \_\_\_\_\_

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f. Solution 6 (p. 365): \_\_\_\_\_

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g. Solution 7 (p. 366): \_\_\_\_\_

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h. Solution 8 (p. 367): \_\_\_\_\_

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i. Solution 9 (p. 367+) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

j. Solution 10 (8 separate points) (page 368). (use back of page)

First, turn these reasons for accepting his conclusion into two paragraphs that accurately summarize what the author is saying. Don't include supporting data and don't introduce your analysis (your thoughts) into these opening summary paragraphs.

Next, in each paragraph, analyze one of the author's reasons. State clearly what is strong and what is weak about each reason. State clearly why this is so. An example of this would be:

"The author says that community colleges should not be funded by taxpayers, but rather by students themselves through tuition. If the state of California did this, for example, the cost of tuition would be so high that very few people could afford community college. He also ignores the fact that people who go to college earn more money; since they earn more money, they pay more taxes, which helps offset the costs to educate them. His statement may make sense if one only looks at the costs of college to taxpayers. But, if one takes into account other factors, it makes no sense to make students pay the entire cost of college without taxpayer help."

After you have written one paragraph analyzing each reason that the author presents, write a final summary paragraph that describes what you have said in the essay. The summary paragraph should state whether the author proved his point and why. This paragraph should be written in very broad terms.