

Critical appraisal

One published paper, four matrix rows, and six hundred words on whether the evidence supports the claim.

Due before the Week 5 session — 3 September for Section 1, 6 September for Section 9. Submit on myCourseVille.
This is the first assignment the course AI policy applies to.

What to submit

1 One published paper from your own area, chosen by you.

A research paper, not a review. You will use the same paper in Week 4 and again in Week 5, so choose one you can stand to read four times.

2 An evidence matrix with four rows.

Your paper, plus at least three neighbouring papers — work that addresses the same question, agrees with it, or contradicts it. Same six columns as the Week 3 activity. Write NONE in any cell the paper does not report.

3 Six hundred words.

What the paper claims • what evidence supports that claim • what the matrix shows is missing.

4 The AI-use declaration form, attached.

On the course page. Every assignment from Week 3 onwards requires it.

The six hundred words, in three parts

The claim

One sentence, in your words, stating what the paper asserts is true. Not the topic — the claim. If you cannot write it in one sentence, say so and explain why: that is a finding

The evidence

Which results support that claim, and how directly. Name the measurement. A claim resting on a mechanism nobody measured is supported by argument, not by evidence, and you should say which one it is

What is missing

Read this out of your matrix, not out of the paper. An empty column, a condition nobody varied, or two rows that disagree. Say what we cannot currently conclude because of it

What scores nothing. A summary. If your six hundred words tell me what the paper says, they score nothing — I have read the paper. Tell me whether the evidence supports what it says. This is an appraisal, and the difference is the whole assignment.

How it is marked

What is looked at	Weight
The appraisal — does the argument about evidence hold, and is it specific enough to check	40
The matrix — four real rows, comparable columns, NONE written where nothing is reported	30
What is missing — a gap read out of the matrix, stated as a cost rather than an absence	20
Choice of neighbours — do the three papers actually bear on the same question	10
Declaration attached	Required

One of the three assignments that together carry 20% of the course mark.

Its relationship to the Week 4 task

The Week 4 reverse outline uses this same paper and is due on the same day. Do the outline first. It takes about forty minutes and it tells you where the paper's argument is weakest, which is most of what the appraisal has to say. Doing the appraisal first and the outline afterwards means doing the same reading twice.

Evidence matrix

One row per paper. Yours first, then at least three neighbours. If a quantity is not reported, write NONE — the empty cell is a finding, and a blank one is invisible. The two questions below are the ones from the Week 3 activity; the gap you write about in your six hundred words should come from one of the two answers.

#	Claim	System	Conditions	Metric reported	Stated limitation
Yours					
2					
3					
4					
5					

Where do two rows disagree, and what would settle it?

Which column is empty for every row?