



ACE Workshop:

Critical Analysis 1 – Thinking & Reading

Please note: these workshops are interactive!

Message the lecturer if you are unable to unmute your microphone during the session.

Session will start at: 00:00

Critical Analysis 1 – Thinking & Reading: Workshop Content

Explain the academic expectations surrounding critical thinking at university

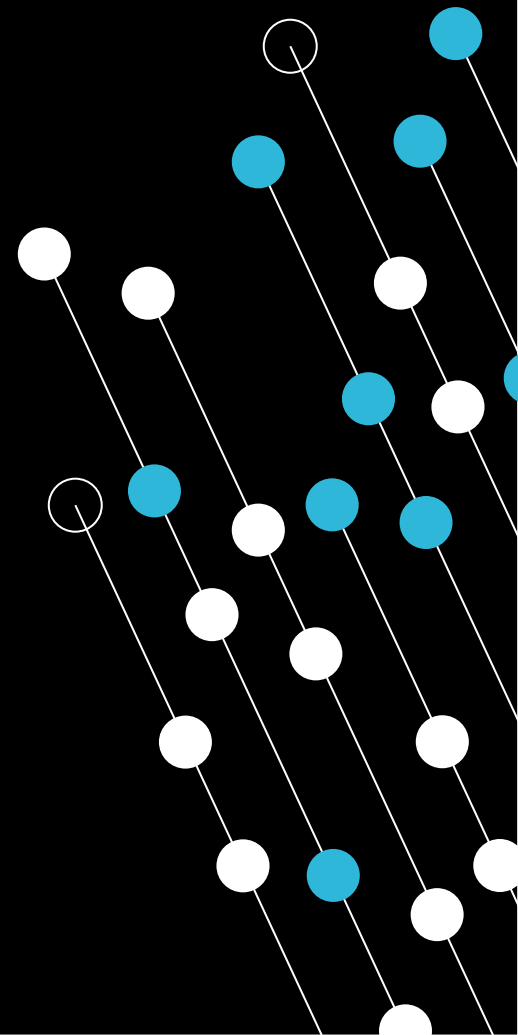
Use the CRAAP Test to assess the credibility of sources

Analyse a paragraph using the Critical Thinking Model, listing pros and cons.

By the end of the lesson, you will be able to:

Identify and evaluate appropriate scholarly resources, engaging critically with their findings.

Thinking Critically



Thinking Critically

1

What does it mean to think critically?

2

Why is it important to think critically throughout your degree apprenticeship?

Task

What does it mean to think critically?

1

- To **analyse** information and make a **logical decision** about the extent to which you believe something to be **true** or **false**.
- To move beyond description, **evaluating** the **validity, usefulness,** or **coherence** of a source.

Answer

Thinking Critically and Your Degree Apprenticeship

2

You are expected to demonstrate a sophisticated approach to critical analysis. This involves:

- **Identifying** a range of relevant **concepts, theories, and models** to help you understand an issue.
- **Exploring** relevant sub-issues and associated problems, **benefits**, challenges, drawbacks and **limitations**.
- **Demonstrating** an understanding of **alternative perspectives**, issues, concepts, theories and models.
- **Assessing gaps** in research and contributing **new ideas** and applications.

Answer

'Criticising' and 'Being Critical'

Task

A – Criticising	B – Being Critical

1. Disapproving
2. Objective
3. Subjective

4. Factual
5. Lacks rationale
6. Limited evidence

7. Balanced

'Criticising' and 'Being Critical'

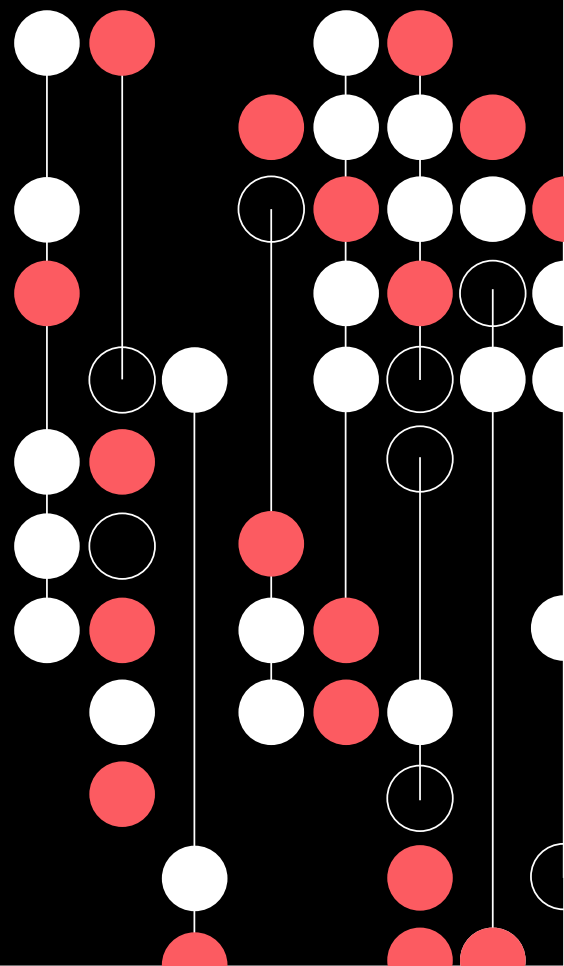


Answer

A – Criticising	B – Being Critical
1. Disapproving	2. Objective
3. Subjective	4. Factual
5. Lacks rationale	7. Balanced
6. Limited evidence	

1. Disapproving	4. Factual	7. Balanced
2. Objective	5. Lacks rationale	
3. Subjective	6. Limited evidence	

Reading Critically



Reading Critically

1

How can we assess the reliability and credibility of a source?

Task



Identifying Appropriate Resources



Developed by librarians at California State University-Chico, the **CRAAP Test** is a helpful 'checklist' for assessing the reliability and credibility of a resource. This checklist is usually presented as a list of questions.

Currency	The timeliness of the information.
Relevance	The importance of the information to your needs.
Authority	The source of the information.
Accuracy	The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content.
Purpose	The reason the information exists.

(University of Central Michigan, 2022)

Identifying Appropriate Resources

Task

In breakout rooms, generate 3 questions which could be used to assess a resource's credibility.

Each group will be assigned a category from the **CRAAP** Test: **C**urrency, **R**elevance, **A**uthority, **A**ccuracy, or **P**urpose.

Example **Answer** for **Currency**:

When was the information published?
Has the information been revised or updated?
Is the information current or out-of-date?

Identifying Appropriate Resources



Currency: The timeliness of the information

- When was the information published or posted?
- Has the information been revised or updated?
- Is the information current or out of date for your topic?

Relevance: The importance of the information for your needs

- Does the information relate to your topic or answer your question?
- Have you looked at a variety of sources before choosing this one?

Authority: The source of the information

- Who is the author/ publisher/ source/ sponsor?
- What are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations given?

Accuracy: The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the content

- Is the information supported by evidence?
- Has the information been reviewed or refereed?

Purpose: The reason the information exists

- What is the purpose of the information?
- Does the point of view appear objective and impartial?

Identifying Appropriate Resources

Task

Applying your knowledge of the CRAAP Test, would this source be appropriate for use in an assignment?

Workplace wellness

文A 4 languages ▾

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From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

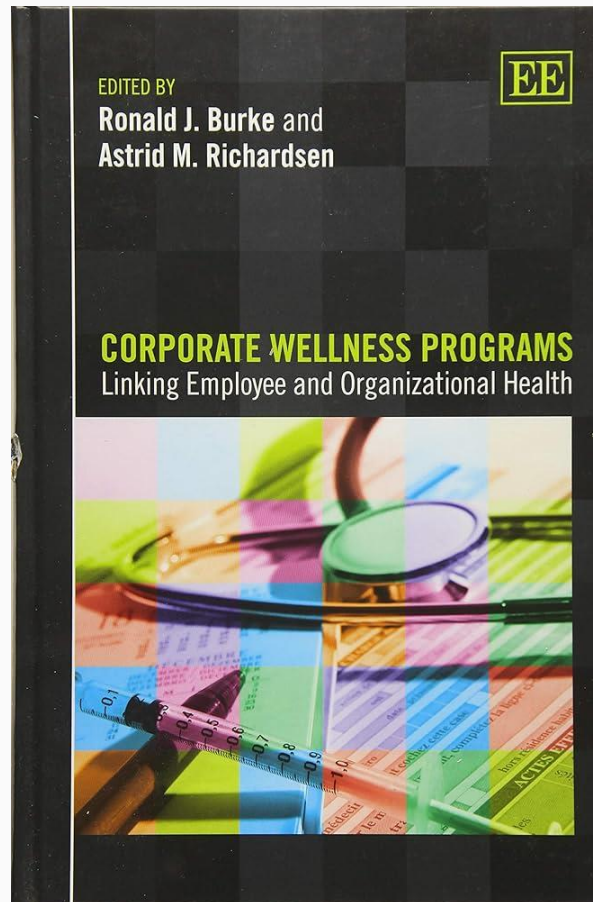
Workplace wellness, also known as **corporate wellbeing** outside the [United States](#), is a broad term used to describe activities, programs, and/or organizational policies designed to support healthy behavior in the [workplace](#). This often involves [health education](#), [medical screenings](#), [weight management](#) programs, and onsite fitness programs or facilities. It can also include flex-time for exercise, providing onsite kitchen and eating areas, offering healthy food options in vending machines, holding "walk and talk" meetings, and offering financial and other incentives for participation.^[1]

Companies most commonly subsidize workplace wellness programs in the hope they will reduce costs on employee health benefits like health insurance in the long run.^[2] Existing research has failed to establish a clinically significant difference in health outcomes, proof of a return on investment, or demonstration of causal effects of treatments.^[3] The largest benefits have been observed in groups that were already attempting to manage health concerns, which indicates a strong possibility of [selection bias](#).^[4]

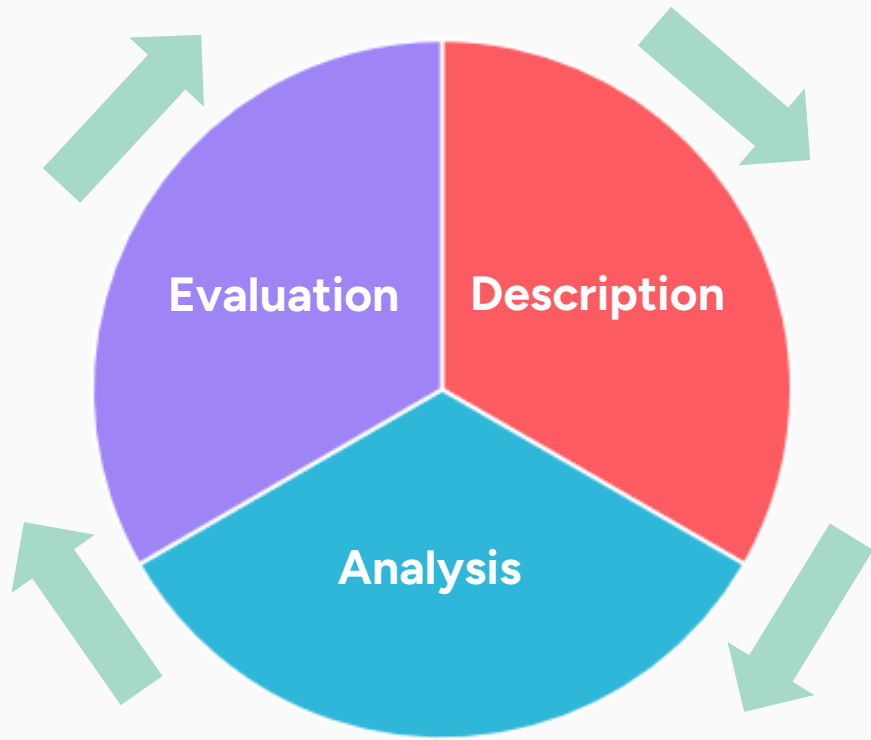
Identifying Appropriate Resources

Applying your knowledge of the CRAAP Test, would this source be appropriate for use in an assignment?

Task



The Critical Thinking Model



- Asking **meaningful questions** is central to reading critically.
- Your **questions should assess a source's strengths and limitations**, rather than accepting the information at face value.
- This three-stage model will help you generate questions to **describe, analyse, and evaluate** scholarly resources.

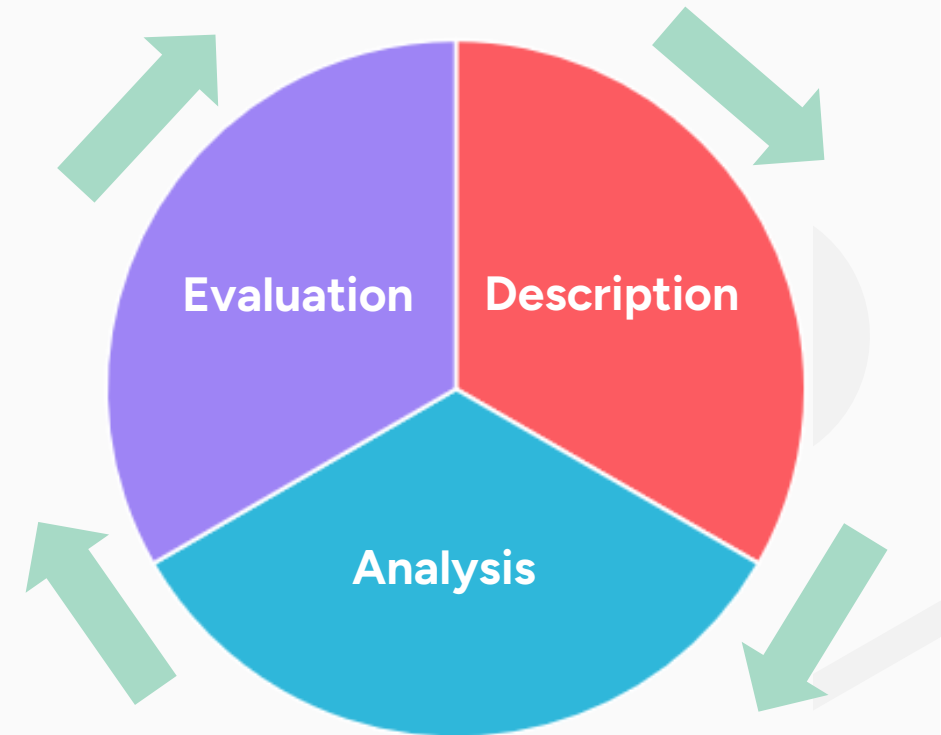
The Critical Thinking Model



Descriptive Questions: Who? What? Where? Why?

These questions will help you to establish the **background** and **context**.

- **Who** wrote this?
- **What** is it about?
- **When** was it written?
- **What** is the aim of the text?



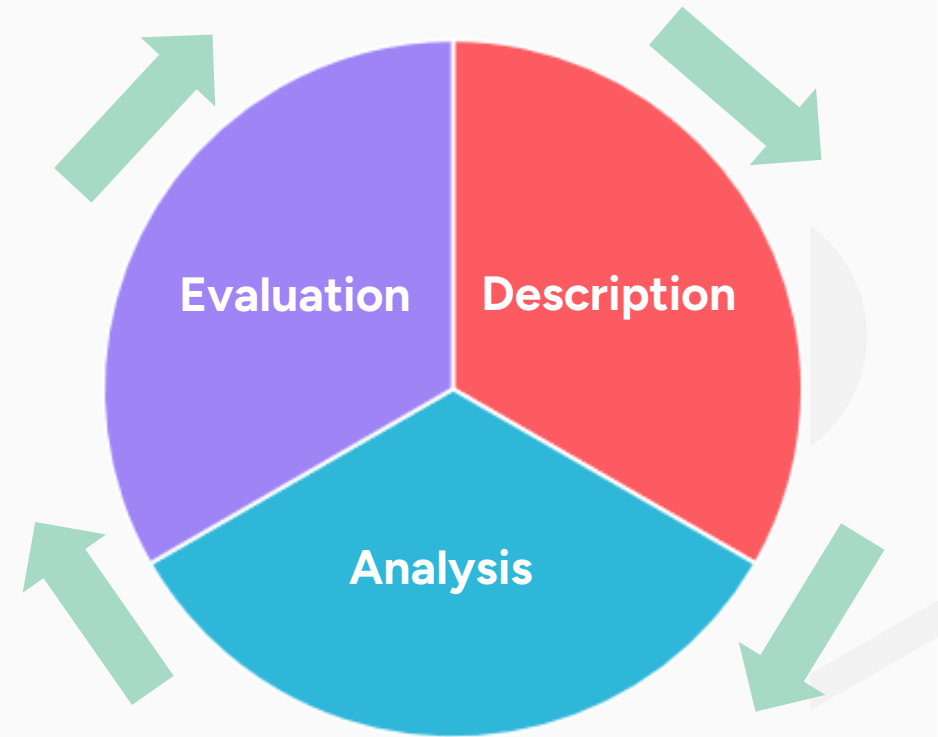
The Critical Thinking Model



Analytical Questions: How? Why? What if?

These questions will help you to examine **methods, processes, causes, and alternatives.**

- **How** was this **research conducted**?
- **How** might one factor **impact** another?
- **Why** are these theories discussed?
- What are the **alternatives**?
- What are the **contributing factors** to the problem?



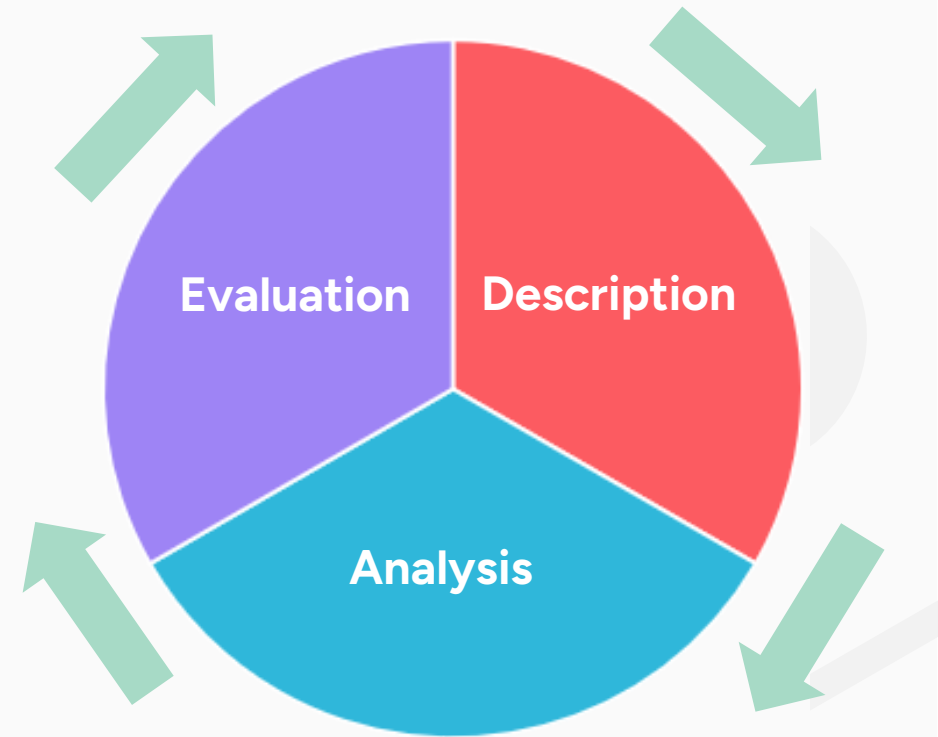
The Critical Thinking Model



Evaluative Questions: So What? What Next?

These questions will enable you to make judgments and consider relevance – leading to **reasonable conclusions**, solutions, or recommendations.

- **What** do I think about this?
- Is it **significant** or **convincing**? Why? Why not?
- **How** does this **compare** to other research I have read?
- **What** can be **learnt** from it?
- What should be **done next**?



(University of Leeds, 2023)

Reading Critically

Task

Read the **example paragraph** which considers the impact of employee well-being on organisational success.

Employee well-being has a substantial impact on the performance and survival of organisations by affecting costs related to illness (Campbell, 2023) and job performance (Dachtler, 2024). Furthermore, employee well-being enables organisations to accelerate productivity at individual as well as organisational levels, whereas in the absence of it the organisation may face cumulative financial and non-financial loss (Wrigley, 2023). Employee well-being is therefore not only important for individuals but also plays a crucial role in organisational success, as organisations which focus on employee well-being can develop significant competitive advantages (Martin, 2024).

Reading Critically

Task

Referring to the extract, assess the **strengths** and **limitations** of the author's argument. You can use the analytical and evaluative questions as prompts.

Strengths

The author **demonstrates links** between employee-well-being, performance and organizational costs. This is **supported with theory**.



Limitations

Conversely, they **fail to consider additional factors** which impact work productivity, such as a strong leadership team, process optimisation, and incentivisation.

Reading Critically

Answer

Strengths

The author **demonstrates links** between employee-well-being, performance and organizational costs. This is **supported with theory**.

The author **considers the impact** of employee well-being at an individual and organizational level.

The author **introduces a range** of positive outcomes for organizations endorsing employee well-being, including financial and competitive gains.



Limitations

Conversely, they **fail to consider additional factors** which impact work productivity, such as a strong leadership team, process optimisation, and incentivisation.

However, the author's claims that employee well-being 'ensures' individual and organizational work productivity are **not evidenced**.

Nevertheless, the exploration of these topics is **limited** and requires expansion, via additional research and alternative perspectives.

Reading with Purpose



Read with purpose by asking questions related to the source's **validity, relevance** and **coherence**.



Engage critically with the author's findings, assessing their **strengths** and **limitations**.



Locate evidence to **support** your arguments.



Introduce alternative perspectives to the arguments proposed.



Propose reasonable solutions and **recommendations**.

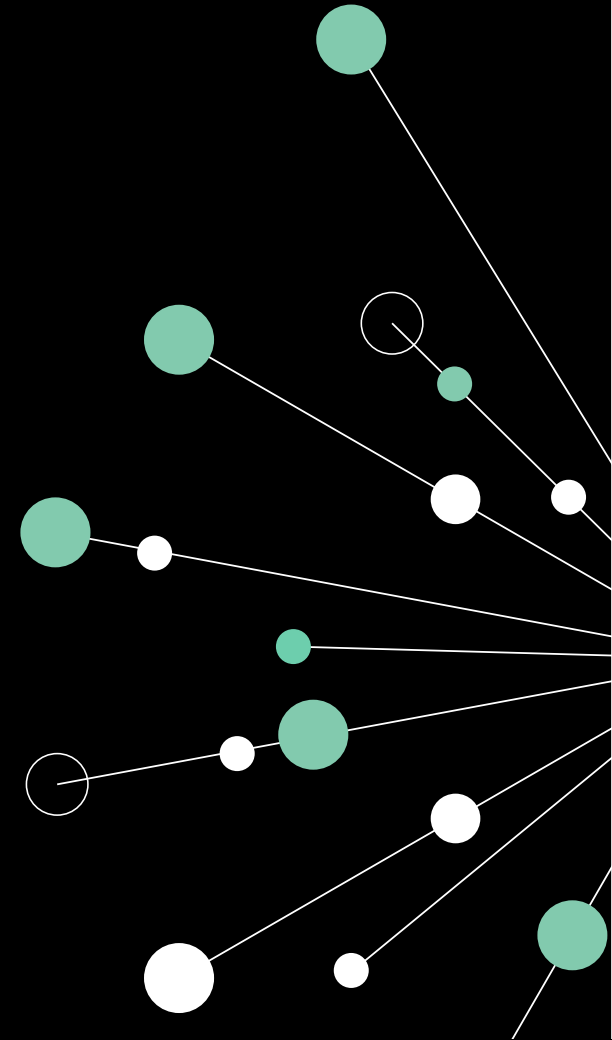
The ACE Critical Thinking Checklist

Critical Thinking Checklist	✓ or X
Have I presented an argument?	
Have I justified my argument?	
Have I explained its significance?	
Is my argument convincing?	
Have I connected my ideas with appropriate signalling language?	
Are my ideas supported with evidence?	
Have I engaged critically with scholarly resources, evaluating the potential validity, coherence, and usefulness of their arguments?	
Have I considered the strengths and limitations of their positions?	
Have I engaged in comparative analysis, exploring relevant disparities, contradictions, or alternatives proposed by the wider academic community?	

You can use the ACE Critical Thinking Checklist to assess the criticality of your work!

To access the full checklist, please follow the link provided.

Review



Critical Analysis 1 - Review



The 'C' in CRAAP Test stands for 'Credibility'



Critical Analysis 1 - Review



Describing sources is a form of critical engagement



Critical Analysis 1 - Review



Analytical questions examine methods and processes, causes, and alternatives. They focus on the following:
How? Why? What if?

References and Further Reading

Burke, R. and Richardson, A. (2014) *Corporate Wellness Programs: Linking Employee and Organizational Health*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Central Michigan University (2022) *The CRAAP Test*. Available at: https://libguides.cmich.edu/web_research/craap (Accessed: 29 September 2024).

Glasgow Caledonian University (2022) *Critical Analysis*. Available at: <https://www.gcu.ac.uk/aboutgcu/academicschools/gsbs/study/ldc/academicwriting/criticalanalysis> (Accessed: 30 September 2024).

University of Leeds (2023) *A Model for Critical Thinking*. Available at: https://library.leeds.ac.uk/info/1401/academic_skills/105/critical_thinking/2 (Accessed: 26 September 2024).

University of Sussex (2023) *Writing and Assessments*. Available at: <https://www.sussex.ac.uk/skills-hub/writing-and-assessments> (Accessed: 30 September 2024).

Wikipedia (2024) *Workplace wellness*. Available at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Workplace_wellness (Accessed: 17 October 2024).

Further reading

[The ACE Critical Thinking Checklist](#)

[The ACE Quick Guide to Critical Writing: Building an Argument](#)

[The ACE Quick Guide to Evaluating Sources and Reading Critically](#)

ACE Feedback

Thank you for attending this ACE Workshop.
We would be grateful if you could take 2 minutes to
complete our **feedback form**.

Do you require further academic support?

Look on the
ACE Page for
resources

Check out our
upcoming
workshops

Book a 1-2-1
tutorial



Any questions?