

In critical prose, you don't offer your

opinions

(which imply value judgments or preferences such as "Burger King is better than McDonald's" or "Sharon Olds is a great poet").

Instead, you offer your major and minor

theories	assertions
argumentative claims	interpretations
readings	plausible conjectures
reasonable speculations	analytical statements
umbrella ideas	persuasions
arguable suppositions	best estimations
convincing explanations	logical postulations
believable premises	sensible suggestions
tenable hypotheses	conclusions
proposals	lawyerly arguments
credible contentions	propositions
conceptions	inferences

about

textual meanings.

In making a strong case about textual significance, you may decide to offer:

- * in-depth interpretations of specific textual elements (or "signs")
- * strong connections to the text's historical and ideological context
- * references to the literary genre and history to which the text belongs
 - * comments from other analysts of the same texts or related texts
 - * perspectives of major critical theorist(s)
 - * supportive evidence from the author's other writings
 - *-supportive evidence from the biography of the author