



# TYPES OF ART CRITICISM

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Criticism

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- **Elements of Criticism**
- **Pillars of Criticism**
- **The architect as a Critic**
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# Types of Art Criticism

- Different kinds of criticisms can be distinguished as criticism due to the criticizing style and the critic's objectives:

**1. Constructive Criticism**

**2. Destructive Criticism**

**3. Aesthetic Criticism**

**4. Logical criticism**

**5. Positive criticism**

**6. Negative criticism**

**7. Scholarly criticism**

**8. Religious Criticism**

**9. Moral Criticism**

**10. Scientific Criticism**

**11. Subjective Criticism**

**12. Objective Criticism**

**13. Public Criticism**

# 1. Constructive Criticism

- **Constructive criticism** is feedback that **helps improve work** by suggesting better ways to achieve a goal.
- Instead of only pointing out mistakes, it provides clear, specific, and **detailed suggestions for improvement**.
- This makes it easier for the person receiving the feedback to understand and apply the changes.
- Constructive criticism is often used along with **negative criticism**, as both play an important role in identifying issues and finding solutions.



# Example:

If someone designs a room and the colors don't match well, instead of saying, "*This looks bad*," a constructive critic would say, "*Maybe using softer colors would create a more relaxing feel.*"

## Another example:

*The work is going on slowly, the other strategies should be taken into consideration.*

## 2. Destructive Criticism

- **Destructive criticism** is a type of feedback that aims **to harm** or weaken rather than **improve**.
- It often involves **personal attacks**.
- Generally considered **unhelpful** because it does **not provide solutions or constructive suggestions**.
- Unlike constructive criticism, which encourages improvement, destructive criticism can have negative effects on **motivation and creativity**

**For Example,**

**you should close your business and look for a job.**



# Example:

- If a designer presents a room layout and someone says, *"This design is terrible; you have no sense of style"* without explaining what could be improved.
- If an architect shares a building concept and a critic responds with, *"This is the worst design I have ever seen,"* without offering any specific feedback.

### 3. Aesthetic Criticism

- **Aesthetic criticism** is a branch of aesthetics that focuses on **evaluating beauty, style,** and the **emotional impact** of a design.
- It goes beyond simple judgments such as *beautiful or ugly* by analyzing the underlying **reasons** for these perceptions.
- Since aesthetics is present in many aspects of human life, there is significant potential for critical evaluation.
- In **architecture**, aesthetic criticism is considered one of the most refined forms of critique because architecture combines **art, science, and technology**.

# Example:

- For example, when evaluating a modern glass skyscraper, an aesthetic critic would not simply state that *the skyscraper looks impressive* but would analyze how its transparency conveys openness or how its geometric form reflects contemporary trends.
- Another example, is aesthetic criticism might assess a room's balance of color, texture, and lighting. Instead of saying "*This room feels cold*," an aesthetic critic might explain that the excessive use of monochromatic tones and harsh lighting creates an uninviting atmosphere, suggesting ways to improve warmth and harmony in the design.

## 4. Logical criticism:

- Logical criticism relies on a **shared understanding of basic facts, logical reasoning, and agreed-upon assumptions**.
- A meaningful discussion can only take place if all participants acknowledge these fundamental principles.
- Without common ground, logical criticism is ineffective, as one party may refuse to accept key premises or consider alternative viewpoints.



# Example:

- If one architect claims a building is structurally unsafe, the discussion must be based on engineering principles like load distribution. If another architect ignores these principles, logical criticism cannot occur.
- If a designer suggests dark colors for a small room, another might argue it will make the space feel smaller. For logical criticism to work, both must agree on the psychological effects of color.

## 5. Positive criticism

This is the one that draws **attention** to a **good aspect** of **something** which is not being **taken into consideration**.

Positive criticism may be overlooked by people who see the only the negative side of something.

Positive criticism is also used as **constructive feedback**.

The **primary aim** of positive criticism is to **provide** a **reference frame** for **better behavior** and **orientation**.



# Example:

If a building design is criticized for *being too simple*, positive criticism might highlight its functionality and energy efficiency.

If a room is considered too minimalistic, positive criticism could emphasize how simplicity creates a calming and open atmosphere.

## 6. Negative criticism

- Negative criticism occurs when something is judged as incorrect or flawed.
- Its main purpose is to express disapproval by focusing on weaknesses.
- Sometimes, it may feel like a personal attack, which can lead to negative reactions, especially if taken seriously.



# Example:

- If a museum is criticized for having a confusing layout, negative criticism might highlight how visitors struggle to navigate the space without suggesting ways to improve it.
- If a bedroom is criticized for having an outdated color scheme, negative criticism might simply label it as unattractive instead of proposing modern alternatives.

## 7. Scholarly (Academic) criticism:

It studies acts based on a **scientific study of the methods with careful research and observation** and **concludes what is appropriate for the public taste at present**. Examples: **research, papers...**

For criticism to be considered scholarly, it must meet academic standards and be supported by strong evidence. Scholars conduct in-depth analysis, making their arguments well-founded and difficult to dismiss.



# Example:

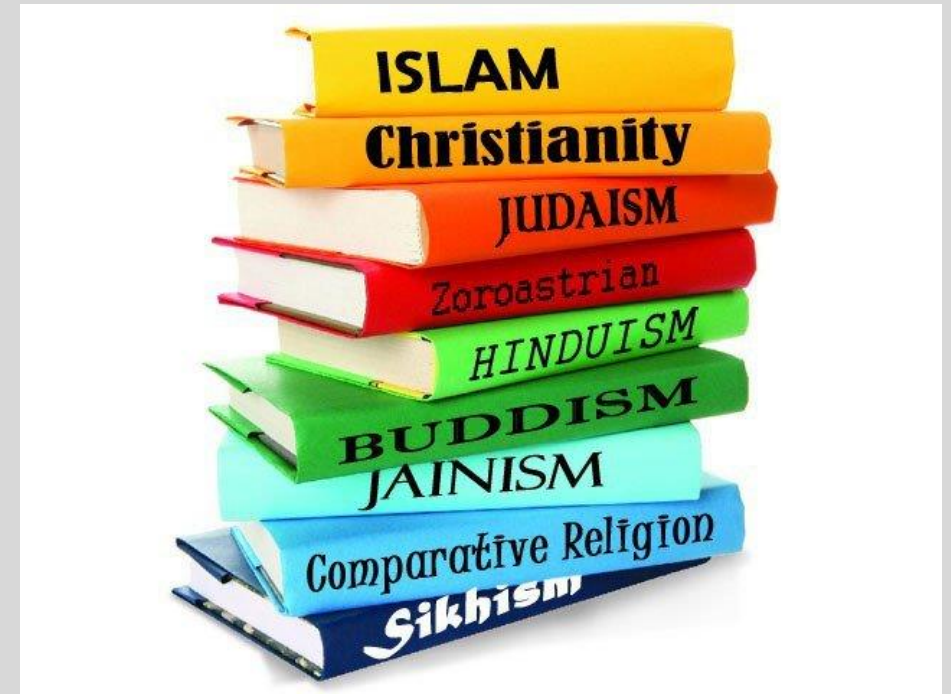
- A scholarly critique of a modern office layout could evaluate how workspace arrangement affects productivity, referencing ergonomic studies and psychological research.

## 8. Religious Criticism:

This type of Criticism is **related** to **judging actions and ideas** related to the **existence** of **God** and whether they are **good** or **bad** for **human beings**.

A religion would normally have **Holy texts** which serve as a **guide** to interpret the actions inculcating the ideas and authentic them as **good or bad**.

It is expected that people derived norms on how to develop the word from these religious texts.



# Example:

- In Islamic designs geometric patterns and calligraphy are used in mosque design instead of figurative art. A mosque without human or animal depictions follows the Islamic religious guideline.

## 9. Moral Criticism

Moral criticism is about **judging whether something is right or wrong** based on **ethics, values, and social norms**. It focuses on fairness, meaning that people in similar situations should be treated the same way. This type of criticism helps ensure that decisions and actions follow shared moral principles.

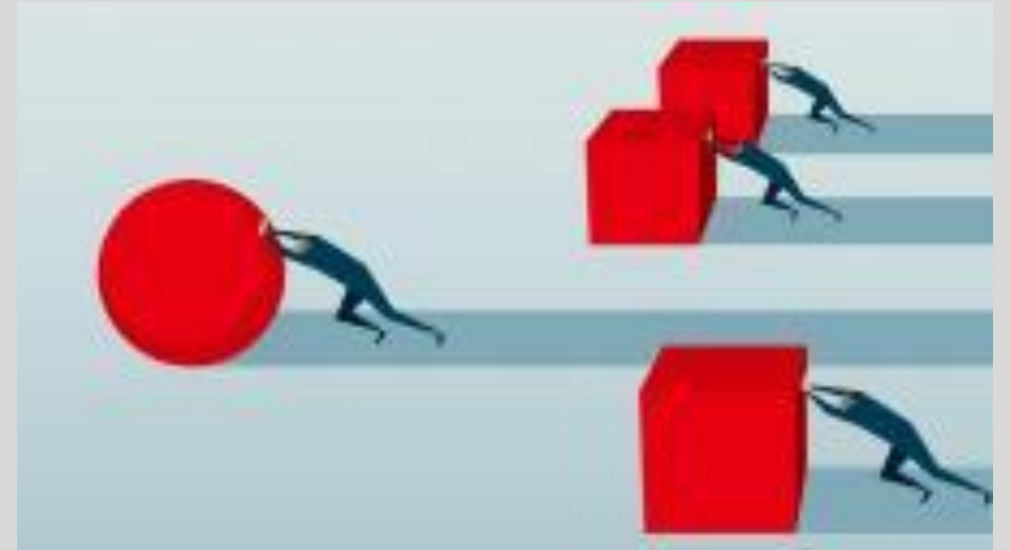


# Example

- A city decides to demolish low-income housing to build a luxury mall. Critics argue that this is morally wrong because it displaces vulnerable residents without offering them alternative housing.
- If a hotel is designed with stylish but non-accessible furniture, making it difficult for people with disabilities to use, critics may argue that it fails to uphold ethical design principles of inclusivity.

## 10. Scientific Criticism

- Scientific criticism focuses on **facts, data, and evidence** rather than opinions or moral values.
- It evaluates whether something is true or false **based on research**, experiments, and logical reasoning.
- Scientists do not consider whether people like the results; they only focus on what can be proven with evidence.



## Example

- A chair is marketed as comfortable, but scientific criticism would test its design using ergonomic studies, analyzing whether it actually supports the spine and reduces back pain.

## What is the difference between academic and scientific criticism?

**Academic criticism** studies ideas using research, history, and theories, including opinions and cultural analysis.

**Scientific criticism** focuses only on facts, experiments, and measurable proof, ignoring opinions or emotions.

## 11. Subjective Criticism

- Subjective criticism relies heavily on opinion and tends to include negative language.
- Subjective criticism can be very biased due to the fact that it is usually based heavily on **emotion and personal preference**.
- It emphasizes: **Personal feelings, thoughts, judgments, opinions.**

## 12. Objective Criticism

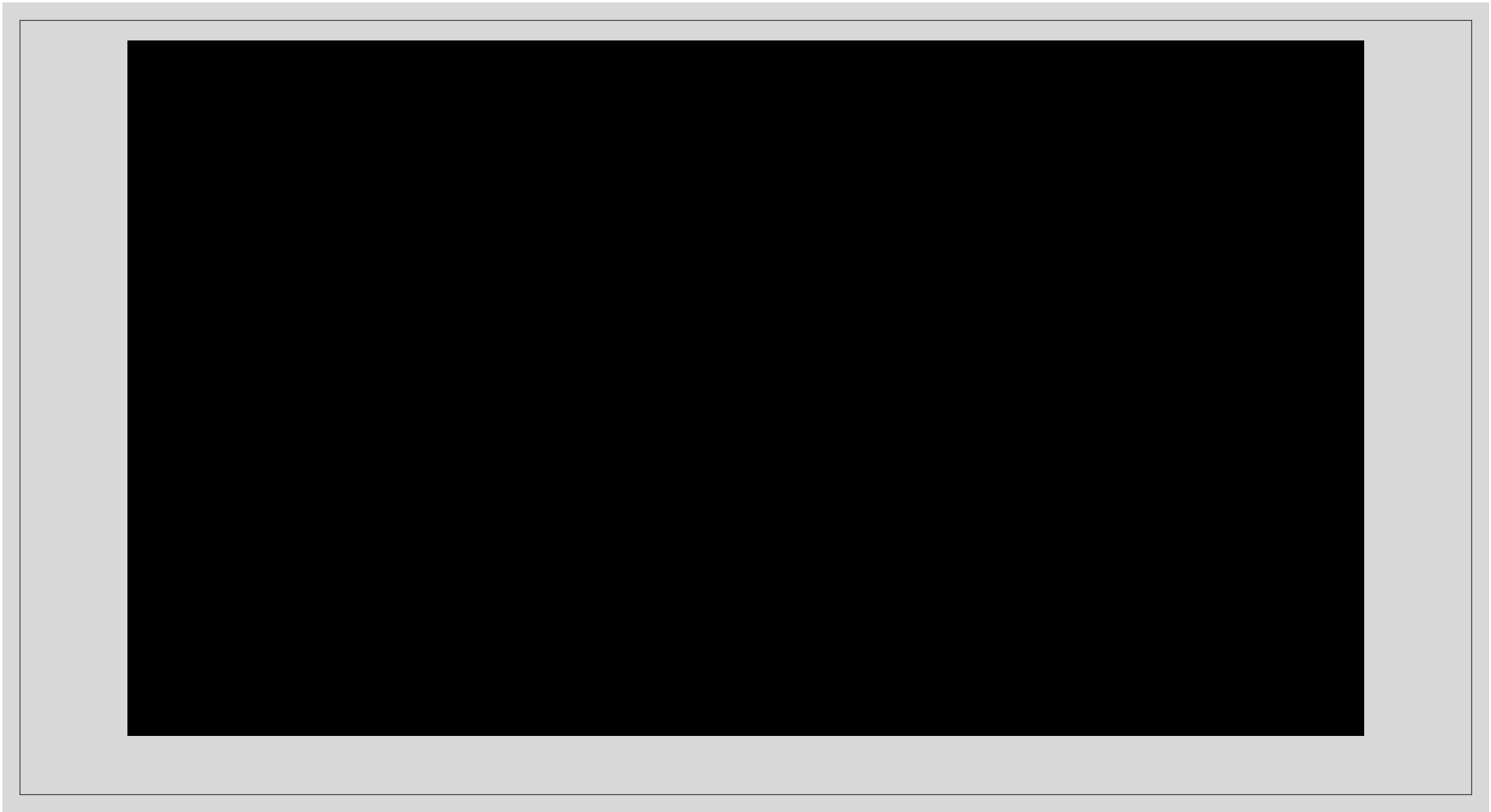
- Objective criticism should not include personal attacks or overly negative language.
- Objective criticism seeks to include **facts that are impossible to dispute.**
- objective criticism is constructive feedback based on **unbiased thoughts** and **facts** rather than **emotion and personal preference.**

## 13 . Public Criticism

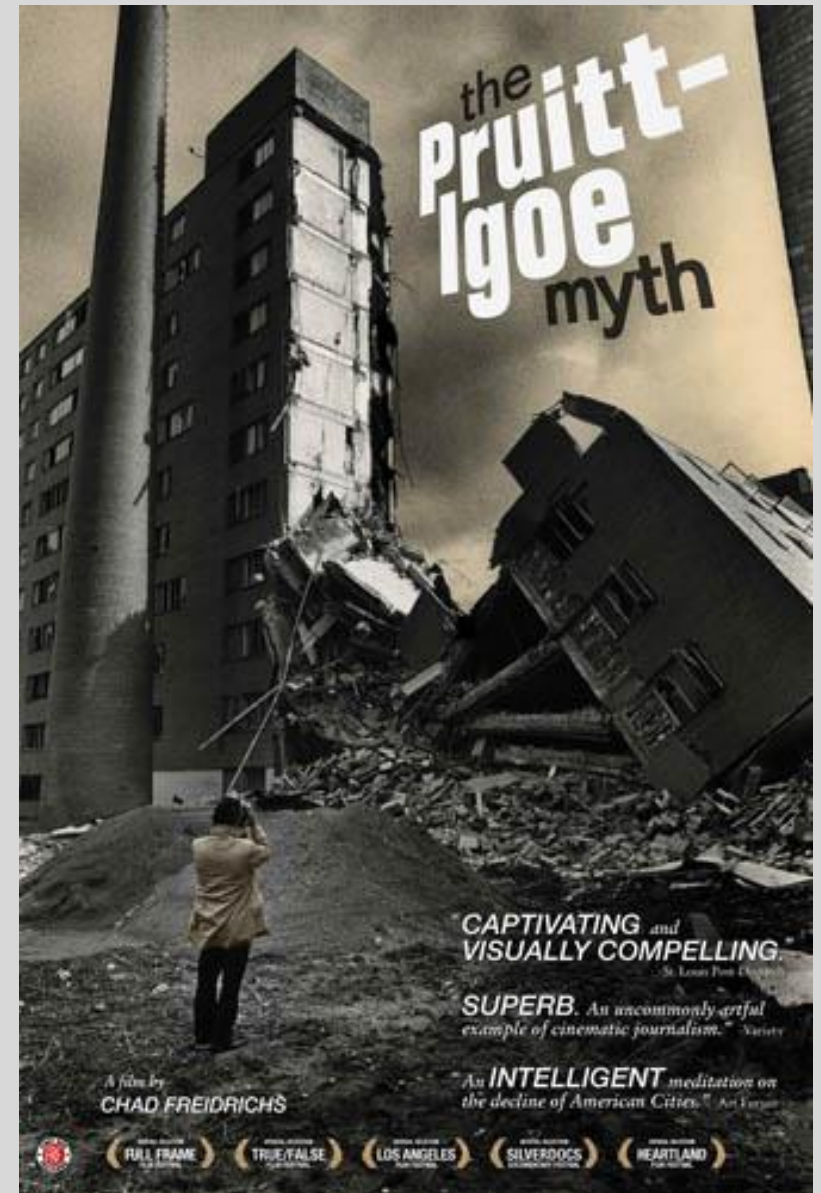
Is based on the **background of the public**, whether they are **qualified or not**. Popular criticism is effective to some degree, and must be given adequate attention.

The criticism of the elite of intellectuals and critics does not eliminate the interest of public criticism. It represents the **opinion of part of the community** involved in art, affected and influenced by it.

Example: ..... Video



One of the main projects  
affected by criticism





- Pruitt–Igoe was a large urban housing project first occupied in **1954** in the U.S. city of St. Louis, Missouri.
- Living conditions in Pruitt–Igoe began to decline soon after its completion in **1956**
- The complex was designed by architect **Minoru Yamasaki**.
- The eventual decision to implode the entire complex in **1976**.

The complex had become internationally infamous for its **poverty, crime, and segregation**. Its 33 buildings were demolished with explosives in the mid-1970s, and the project has become an **icon of urban renewal and public-policy planning failure**.

# Pruitt-Igoe



**Do you have any questions?**

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