

Critical Stances (via Michael Janeway)

A critic may wear various hats, play various roles. This list is not a guide- or rule-book. It's meant to open your mind to the possibilities, and think imaginatively about the many strategies available to an accomplished critic.

Most customary

Reporter
Interpreter
Prosecutor/ jury/ judge
Evaluator (consumer reports)
Passionate fan/ Aficionado

"Higher Calling"

Historian/ Scholar
Adult Ed
Mediator
(Supreme Court) Plaintiff/Defense/ judge
Mythologist

More "Literary"

"Critic as Artist"
Ironist
Stylist
Expert /First Person privileges)
Interpreter /Translator
Psychoanalyst
Meditator (not to be confused with Mediator)
Prophet

Critic as enemy of cant

skeptic
guerilla warrior/ street-fighter
subversive/ provocateur
detective
prosecutor/ defendant/ jury/ judge
maverick, "village atheist" (Mencken tradition)