**Writing to Sources** Resource 1.9

A critical review is an analysis of a work of literature in which the writer describes the work and makes **claims** about its quality and effectiveness. A critical review should include these elements:

* a main claim offering an evaluation or interpretation of at least one work of literature
* an analysis of literary elements in the work(s) of literature, such as characters, plot, and theme
* relevant evidence and reasons that support the main claim and analysis, including text evidence and paraphrases

**Assignment**

Write a **critical review** in which you make an argument about how well the author presents the character of Uncle Marcos. Does the author intend to suggest that Uncle Marcos is a great innovator, or just an eccentric man with crazy ideas?

Support your claims with details from the selection. Make sure to use words and phrases that clarify the relationships between your ideas, your reasons, and the textual details that support them. For example, words such as *because* can help clarify a cause-and-effect relationship. Words such as *like* can help show a comparison, and words such as *unlike* help signal contrast.

**Vocabulary and Conventions Connection** include several of the concept vocabulary words. Also, remember to use subject complements correctly to strengthen your writing.

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| **decipher newfangled improvisations**  **contraption ingenuity paraphernalia** |

**Reflect on Your Writing**

After you have written your critical review, answer the following questions.

1. How does writing an argument help you to write a critical review?

2. What was the most difficult part of writing your critical review?

3. Why These Words? The words you choose make a difference in your writing. Which words did you specifically choose to clearly convey your ideas?