



READING

CRITICALLY

Critical reading is a process of reading beyond just understanding a text. It guides you to carefully consider and evaluate what you read. Use the strategies below to answer what, why and how the text is written!



1) IDENTIFY

- Know the purpose of reading the article.
- This will guide you to look out for useful information.



2) PREVIEW

- Briefly skim through the article to get an idea of it.
- Look out for the title, author and structure of the article.



3) ANNOTATE

- Read the article again, this time writing notes.
- Highlight thesis, main points, key terms, sources and unfamiliar words.
- Write questions and comments.



4) SUMMARIZE

- Paraphrase the thesis and main points in your own words to help increase your understanding.



5) ANALYZE

- Link various key points together to see their relationship.
- Look at supporting claims and evidence.
- Evaluate if the sources are relevant, credible and current.



6) FINAL READ

- Read a final time and synthesise all information gathered.
- Answer all your questions as you read to better your understanding.

After critically reading an article, you should be able to form your own opinion based on understanding and evaluating the article. Start a discussion and share your opinions or start writing a research paper with the new information.

References:

- Writing@CSU Guide (2014). 'Strategies for Reading More Critically'. Retrieved from <http://writing.colostate.edu/guides/guide.cfm?guideid=31> on 11 March 2014.
- Centre for writing, University of Minnesota (2014). 'Student writing support: Critical Reading Strategies'. Retrieved from <http://writing.umn.edu/sws/assets/pdf/quicktips/criticalread.pdf> on 11 March 2014.