

VI. Compare/Contrast

Finally, relate this to the rest of the information from the course. How does it add to or detract from the course? How does it compare/contrast to ideas or information from earlier in the course? How has your thinking or knowledge been changed by reading this selection? Has the reading changed your thinking?



6 Habits in Critical Reading

1. Pre-Read
2. Outline
3. Annotate
4. Repetitions/Patterns
5. Contextualize
6. Compare/Contrast

The Reading Center is a division of Academic Services & Assessment and University College and Lifelong Learning



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Critical Reading Habits

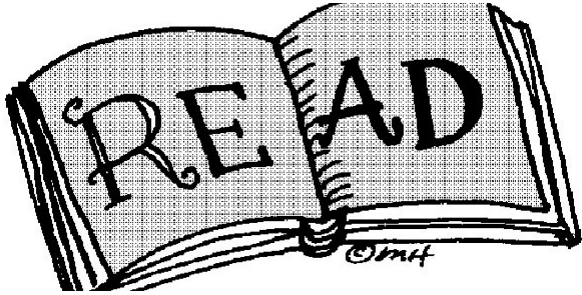


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I. Pre-read

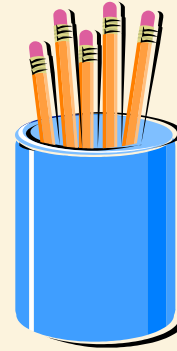
Look around the text before you start reading; get a first impression of the text.

- How is the text organized?
- Do you know the author?
- Read over the headings and captions, look at charts/graphs.
- Pre-reading allows your brain to get focused on what you're reading.



II. Outline

Create an outline of the text using your *own words*. This can be quick and in the margins or more formal on paper (think Roman numerals). Outlining helps you to see the basics of an argument or section of information and it's a quick way to go back to remind yourself of what the text was about.



III. Annotate

As you read, have a conversation between yourself, the text and the author. Do NOT highlight; instead, write your ideas and thoughts in the margin. These words should be reminders of the text, connections or class discussions.

Find and use your own symbols, to mark text as you read (e.g. * for important ideas or ! for surprising). This should show your immediate thoughts on a selection.

As you read, ask questions, record your answers in the margins or on paper. Jot down questions you have but didn't get answered (for future discussion or reflection).

IV. Repetitions/ Patterns

As you read, look for recurring images, repeated phrases/examples/words, consistent ways of characterizing people or events. These are the author's way of indicating to you what s/he feels is important or what s/he expects you to get out of a reading.



V. Contextualize

After you finish reading, take a minute to put everything in perspective. Think about:

- when was it written
- where was it published
- Does this information change how you view the selection?
- Look at the text through your own experiences as well. Incorporate it into your own background knowledge; significant information affects how we think.