Critical Reading and Annotation Skills

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What is Critical Reading?

- Reading for the purpose of discovering information and ideas within text
- Evaluative and analytical
- Goal oriented
- Unbiased
Critical Reading Strategies

- Preview
- Re-read
- Annotate
- Contextualize
- Question
- Reflect
- Outline and Summarize
- Evaluate
- Compare
Preview

- Read front and back covers
- Read table of contents
- Search info about book and author on internet
Re-read

- Re-visit interesting or confusing sections
- Read slowly the second or third time
Annotate

- Short summaries
- Comments and questions
- Underline and define keywords
- Bracket important sections
- Make an idea map
- Number related points
Contextualize

Place text in its:

- Historical
- Biographical
- Cultural
- Intellectual context
Write questions when author’s arguments or reasoning seems confusing
Reflect

- Be aware of your emotional responses to text
- This will help you stay objective in your readings
Outline and Summarize

- Identify the main arguments and re-state them in your own words
Evaluate

Did the text change the way you think or feel about the subject?
How are the arguments, methods, and prose style similar to others you have read?