CRITICAL READING

Point of View Purpose frames of reference, goals, perspectives, objectives orientations Question at issue The Implications and Elements problem, issue Consequences of Information Assumptions Thought data, facts, reasons presuppositions, observations, axioms, taking for experiences, granted Concepts evidence theories, Interpretation definitions, laws, and Inference principles, models conclusions, solutions

Analyze the Elements of Thought

- What is the author's **purpose**?
- What key **questions** or problems does the author raise?
- What **information**, data, and evidence does the author use in his or her reasoning?
- What key **concepts** does the author use to organize this information, this evidence?
- What key **conclusions** is the author coming to? Are those conclusions justified?
- What are the author's primary **assumptions**? Should any of these assumptions be questioned?
- What **viewpoint** is the author writing from? Should any other viewpoints be considered?
- What are some important **implications** of the author's reasoning?



Assess an Author's Reasoning Through Intellectual Standards

Clarity:

Are the author's purposes, questions, information, and conclusions clearly stated?

Accuracy:

Is the information from which the author draws his/her conclusions accurate? Should any other aspect of the reasoning be questioned?

Fairness:

Does the author consider, in good faith, the viewpoints of relevant others? Does the author seem to be biased in representing the issue from a certain perspective?

Relevance:

Is the information presented relevant to the key questions and to the author's primary purpose?

Depth:

Do the author's claims address the complexities in the questions at issue? Does the author's reasoning deal with the depth of the issue(s)?

Logical:

Does the author's reasoning make sense? For example, do the conclusions follow from the information given?

Breadth:

Does the author approach the issues from multiple viewpoints (where relevant)? Are opposing viewpoints considered?

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