

Worksheet: Reading Critically!

The articles you read at university can seem very authoritative and it can feel difficult to
By following these steps **before, during and after** each reading, you'll be better prepared to
answer the question in your own words when you come to write!

1. Before you read

What are you about to read?

Spend a couple of minutes writing in response to the following questions:

Why are you reading this text? What do you know about the author/their point of view? How
might it be related to what you're studying?

What do you hope to find out?

Take a few more minutes to think of some questions you want to ask of the text.

*Eg. "What is the author's point of view on x?" or "How is the idea of y defined here?" or "How
does this author relate to this other author I have studied?"*

2. While you're reading

As you read, make a very brief summary of the claims that the author is making in the table below.

Tip: only write down the claims that are relevant to your questions above!

What claim do they make?	What evidence do they use to support it?	How does this relate to my question?

3. After you've finished

As soon as you've finished reading, put the text away and take three minutes to write a brief summary of the whole thing.

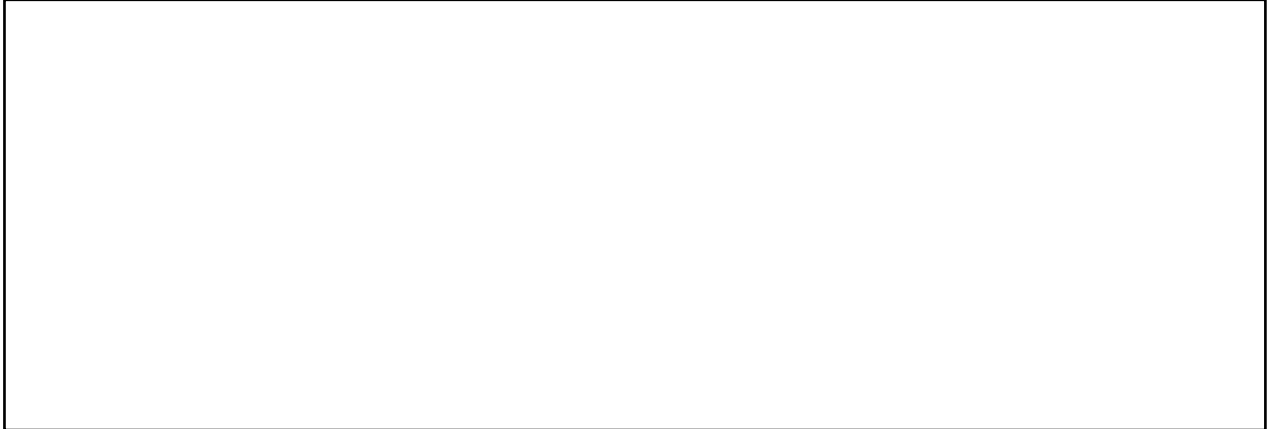
What problem was the author trying to address? How would you sum up their overall argument/approach?

Tip: Putting the text away while you do this forces you to summarise in your own words. This will help you paraphrase this reading when you come to write!

Finally, spend five minutes writing a response to this text.

How does it relate to your own thoughts about the topic? Which parts do you agree with? Is the use of evidence convincing? How does it relate to the other things you've read?

Tip: Be specific! The more you can pinpoint specific features of the text that you agree with, the more substantial your argument will be when you come to write.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for the student to write their response to the text. The box is currently blank.