Critical reading is the ability to evaluate the trustworthiness and reliability of a piece of writing. All writers have a purpose when they write, and usually, a writer will choose or emphasize facts and details which support his or her purpose, and ignore facts which don’t. As a good reader, you need to be aware of that.

Ask these questions in order to read critically:

- What is the article, text or chapter about?
- Is it accurate, and how do I know this?
- Who is the author and do they have the qualifications or experience to write about this topic?
- Is the author trying to persuade me to agree with what is being stated?
- Is the author’s argument based on a broad or narrow view of the issue?
- What evidence supports the argument?
- Is there anything missing from the argument?
- What would a totally opposite point of view look like?
- Do I agree or disagree with the author’s point of view?
- How did I come to my decision?
- What do other writers have to say on this topic?
- Does this text provide anything ‘new’ to the topic?
- Is this document useful for my research?

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