

# STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE ANALYTICAL READING



Use these questions to get you started in your analysis of class readings.

## **1. WHAT IS THE TEXT ABOUT?**

**To answer this question, you need to:**

Take notes

For each paragraph, list a word or phrase that identifies the point of the paragraph

Collect your notes and phrases to create a summary of the piece

## **2. HOW IS THE TEXT STRUCTURED?**

**To answer this question, you need to:**

Identify which of the statements function as claims, premises or reasons, evidence, and conclusions

Be able to describe the structure or composition of the essay

Read for relationships between sentences and paragraphs

## **3. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE LANGUAGE OF THE TEXT?**

**To answer this question, you need to:**

Examine the syntax, diction, tone, and figures of speech used by the author

Be able to describe the effect of each of these elements

## **4. TO WHOM IS THE TEXT ADDRESSED? HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS?**

**To answer this question, you need to:**

Use historical or contextual evidence to speculate about the intended audience

Identify the speaker's tone

## **5. WHAT EFFECT DOES THE TEXT HAVE ON THE READER?**

**To answer this question, you need to:**

Identify rhetorical strategies used by the author

Examine your emotional and intellectual responses to the text

Figure out how the rhetorical strategies create the intellectual and emotional effects

## **6. WHAT IS THE TEXT ARGUING?**

**To answer this question, you need to:**

Put the main points of all the paragraphs together to see what argument emerges

Read for implied meaning

Read for the relationships between sentences and paragraphs

Look at the structure, language, and subject to see how these elements work together to produce an argument

## **7. IS THE TEXT EFFECTIVE AT ITS GOAL? WHY?**

**To answer this question, you need to:**

Identify the point or argument of the text

Consider the rhetorical strategies at work in the text

Determine whether the strategies work to supplement the point or argument