

Critical Reading Skills

Critical reading is gaining insights and understanding beyond comprehending the topic, main idea, and supporting details

The **purpose** is the author's reason for writing. Common purposes are

1. to *inform* or explain
2. to *instruct* or teach or give directions
3. to *persuade* or convince
4. to *entertain* or amuse

How to determine:

- think carefully about the *words* the author has used
- examine *whether or not both sides* of a controversial issue have been presented.

Ask: *Why did the author write this?*

The intended **audience** is who an author envisions as the readers. To determine, examine

- topic being discussed
- level of language used
- purpose for writing

Ask: *Who did the author intend to read this?*

The **point of view** is the author's opinion on an issue

Examples:

- Supporting this new policy is essential because
- The proposed legislation will benefit all citizens because
- It is not in the best interest of the country to
- Voters should oppose _____ because

Bias is the side of an issue an author favors, the preference for one side over another

Ask: *What is the author's position on this issue?*

Tone is the manner of writing (choice of words and style) that reveals an author's attitude toward a topic. To determine, examine

- choice of words
- writing style

Ask: *What do the author's choice of words and style of writing reveal about his/her attitude toward the topic?*