

Reading Strategies to Improve Your Critical Thinking

<p> Strategy One</p>	<p><i>Clarify Comprehension</i></p>	<p>Check meanings of words you do not know in a dictionary. Increase your understanding of an idea by consulting a textbook or review article. Paraphrase and summarize key parts of the text. Write down the main idea of each paragraph.</p>
<p> Strategy Two</p>	<p><i>Summarize</i></p>	<p>Determine the author's purpose, main question, argument and key concepts. The questions of "why" and "what" should be considered: why did the author write this article or book? Why is the question/problem/issue important? What are the author's main thesis, argument and conclusions?</p>
<p> Strategy Three</p>	<p><i>Analyze</i></p>	<p>Determine the author's point of view, theories, inferences, assumptions, and implications. Ask what evidence is put forward. Has the author considered other viewpoints? What are the key concepts or ideas that guide his or her reasoning?</p>
<p> Strategy Four</p>	<p><i>Synthesize</i></p>	<p>Ask yourself how the argument and evidence is similar to or different from those of other authors. Consider in what ways the author's argument, conclusions and point of view compare with those of other studies.</p>
<p> Strategy Five</p>	<p><i>Evaluate</i></p>	<p>Consider if the evidence supports the author's argument or conclusion. Is there reason to suggest a biased view from the author? Is the author's method sufficient to address the research question? Are there competing theories that could explain the author's data.</p>