

READING COMPLEX MATERIAL

Definitions of Reading

“Reading is an act of learning!” – Daniel Sheridan

Reading is a thinking process, one that includes decoding and understanding as well as reacting to and assimilating ideas from the text.

Critical reading is the “awareness of purpose in reading and the monitoring and regulating of one’s own cognitive process.” – Grubaugh

It is the reader’s ability to be fully engaged in reading!

It is focused on the reader! Critical reading is a deliberative, reflective process that assumes the reader’s ability to receive information from an organized text. It makes personal search and personal reaction the highest priorities. It, therefore, is highly individual. (Adler and Van Doren)

According to Adler and Van Dore, the Critical Rader:

Reads with a purpose!

The reader’s awareness of a purpose in reading includes such skills as identifying a variety of materials and purposes and then adapting suitable techniques to achieve these goals

Communications with the Author! The Reader:

- a) Recognizes the importance of vocabulary
- b) Identifies the organizational aspects of the text such as paragraph and chapter divisions
- c) Notes the author’s key arguments
- d) Sees relationships
- e) Recognizes new information
- f) Can summarize, in her own words, the author’s message
- g) Distinguishes fact from opinion
- h) Recognizes the author’s tone
- i) Can evaluate the truth and completeness of a text
- j) Senses the appropriateness of ideas and arguments
- k) Judges whether or not the author has achieved her/his purpose
- l) Can agree or disagree with the author in a reasoned way

Monitors her own Progress!

The reader herself evaluates the success of the reading experience in terms of the information, understanding and enjoyment she has received. She can detect problems if her goals are not reached and can take corrective action such as rereading the text to search out her questions. The reader is willing to spend time on worthwhile materials.

Has the Ability to Relate Learning to Life!

Reading allows the individual to relate her background and prior knowledge to the text. It allows her to respond appropriately to the learning task, to evaluate strategies and outcomes, and to grow personally from these experiences.

Is Aware of the Reading-Writing Connection!

The reader learns from authors' organization, choice of words, and variety of written expression to value these techniques in her written communications.

References:

Andler, M. and Van Doren, C. (1972). HOW TO READ A BOOK, New York, NY: Simon and Schuster.

Grubaugh, S. and Speaker, R. (1991) Metacognitive self-assessment for college reading and writing, JOURNAL OF COLLEGE READING IMPROVEMENT, 23, 45-58.

Source: Joan E. Kain, CSJ