Critical Reading/Analysing

**When you read critically, you are making judgements about what you read. When you do this, you:**

* think more deeply about your learning
* write critically (show your understanding, interpretation or evaluation)
* apply and evaluate theory in professional practice situations
* problem solve as a professional
* assess and evaluate what you read by identifying the author’s purpose, credibility of information, relevance, currency, etc.

**What is critical reading?**

Reading critically is largely a process of asking questions such as:

* What position is the writer presenting?
* What is the writer’s argument?
* Where is the writer coming from? (their perspective)
* What evidence is the writer giving to support his or her position?
* Is the evidence presented accurately?
* Is the evidence valid?
* Has the evidence been collected using appropriate methods?
* Have I encountered this argument before?
* Have I encountered a different argument somewhere?
* Is the writer basing him- or herself on a particular theory or approach?
* Are the writer’s claims reasonable?
* How does the writer’s position compare with the positions of other writers in the field?
* What is the writer’s final point?
* Do I agree with the position the writer is presenting? Why or why not?

(Brick 2011, p. 83; Burns & Sinfield 2009, p. 160)