Introductory Academic Program

Critical reading/thinking

Learning Advisers
UniSA
Discussion

What article(s) did you find?
Why did you choose this/these specific article(s)?
How did you choose it/them?

– What key words did you use?

– Which databases did you go to?

– What challenges did you experience?
Reading strategies

Managing large amounts of reading/long & complicated texts
80/20 Principle

In most reading assignments, 80% of what you need to know is in about 20% of the material.

So you usually only need to skim read 80% of the document and carefully read the relevant 20%.
Before you read ….

• have a clear idea about your purpose
  • To find a simple definition?
  • To develop an answer to an assignment question?
  • To find a contrasting point of view?
  • To develop an initial understanding?
  • To develop a deeper understanding?
As you read ...

Get an OVERVIEW of it

Look at:

– Title, headings, subheadings
– Captions under pictures, charts, etc
– Introduction and conclusion
– Summary or abstract
– Topic sentences
What is critical thinking?

- looking at implications of information and giving reasons for opinions
- systematically collecting information from a variety of sources - asking questions
- sorting, classifying and comparing ideas
- transferring known information to another area and accepting multiple answers
- judging credibility of resources, locating inconsistencies and faulty reasoning
What is critical reading? Key questions:

1. What credibility does the author have?
2. What is significant/important about this text?
3. What claims are being made?
4. What evidence is used?
5. How logical are the ideas?
6. What conclusions are drawn by the writers?
7. What are the limitations/gaps?
Critical reading activity

With a partner (or in small groups) scan through the article given to you:

Sorenson, SB, Morssink, C & Campos, PA 2011, 'Safe access to safe water in low income countries: Water fetching in current times', Social Science & Medicine, vol. 72, no. 9, pp. 1522-1526.

As you scan through, respond to the questions on the previous slide.