Reading Strategies

Reading is strongly linked to writing. Without close reading, writers struggle because they have little to say about what they read. Below are some reading strategies that will assist with critical reading.

1. **Annotating**: recording your reactions to and questions about a text directly on the page
2. **Previewing**: learning about a text before reading it closely
3. **Outlining**: listing the main idea of each paragraph to see the organization of a text
4. **Summarizing**: briefly presenting the main ideas of a text
5. **Paraphrasing**: restating and clarifying the meaning of a few sentences from a text
6. **Synthesizing**: combing ideas and information selected from different texts
7. **Questioning to understand and remember**: inquiring about the context
8. **Contextualizing**: placing a text within an appropriate historical and cultural framework
9. **Reflecting on challenges to your beliefs and values**: examining your responses to reveal your own unexamined assumptions and attitudes
10. **Exploring the significance of figurative language**: seeing how metaphors, similes, and symbols enhance meaning
11. **Looking for patterns of opposition**: discovering what a text values by analyzing its system of binaries/contrasts
12. **Evaluating the logic of an argument**: testing the argument of a text to see whether it makes sense
13. **Recognizing emotional manipulation**: looking for false or exaggerated appeals
14. **Judging the writer’s credibility**: determining whether a text can be trusted
15. **Comparing and contrasting related readings**: exploring likenesses and differences between texts to understand them better