

# The Reading Process

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# *Guidelines for Reading*

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**You should read all material at least three times.**

I. The first reading acts on an *emotional* level.

# *First Reading*

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A. Read first for enjoyment, without interruption

- Concentrate on the basic ideas of the essay.
- Notice the language used and the tone of voice.

B. Afterwards, as soon as possible, determine:

1. Do you have any unanswered questions?
2. What reactions does the author expect from the audience?
3. Do you *like* the piece? Be able to state *why* or *why not*.
4. What is the basic topic the author has chosen?

# *Second Reading*

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II. The second reading acts on an *analytical* level.

- Likewise, material you may have missed on the first reading can be explored in better detail.
- Resolves unanswered questions.

# *Second Reading*

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## A. Concentrate on the essay's details:

1. to answer any possible questions
2. to confirm what you already know

## B. Determine:

1. the specific topic and the author's specific intentions;  
are there any secondary hidden topics?
2. the conflicts shown
3. How do these two elements affect the developments and resolution  
of the full essay?

# *Third Reading*

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III. The third reading specifically targets a higher level  
of *critical* analysis.

- Since you can predict what will happen, you can analyze in closer details the intentions of the essay.
- Newer insights can be gained regarding the author's strategy.
- You will recognize the pattern of writing the author has chosen.
- You will see the elements of the essay is stronger detail.

# *Third Reading*

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A. It is important to be open to the entire work.

1. consider how it relates to other readings
2. discover what sets it apart from other writings

B. Ask yourself:

1. What images are used in the essay?
2. What literary devices are used in the essay?
3. What is the author's main goal for telling me this essay?

# *Review of Reading Points*

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- The first reading acts on an emotional level.
- The second reading acts on an analytical level.
- The third reading targets a higher level of critical analysis.