

The Reading Process



Guidelines for Reading

You should read all material at least three times.

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

First Reading

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

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

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

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

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

- 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.