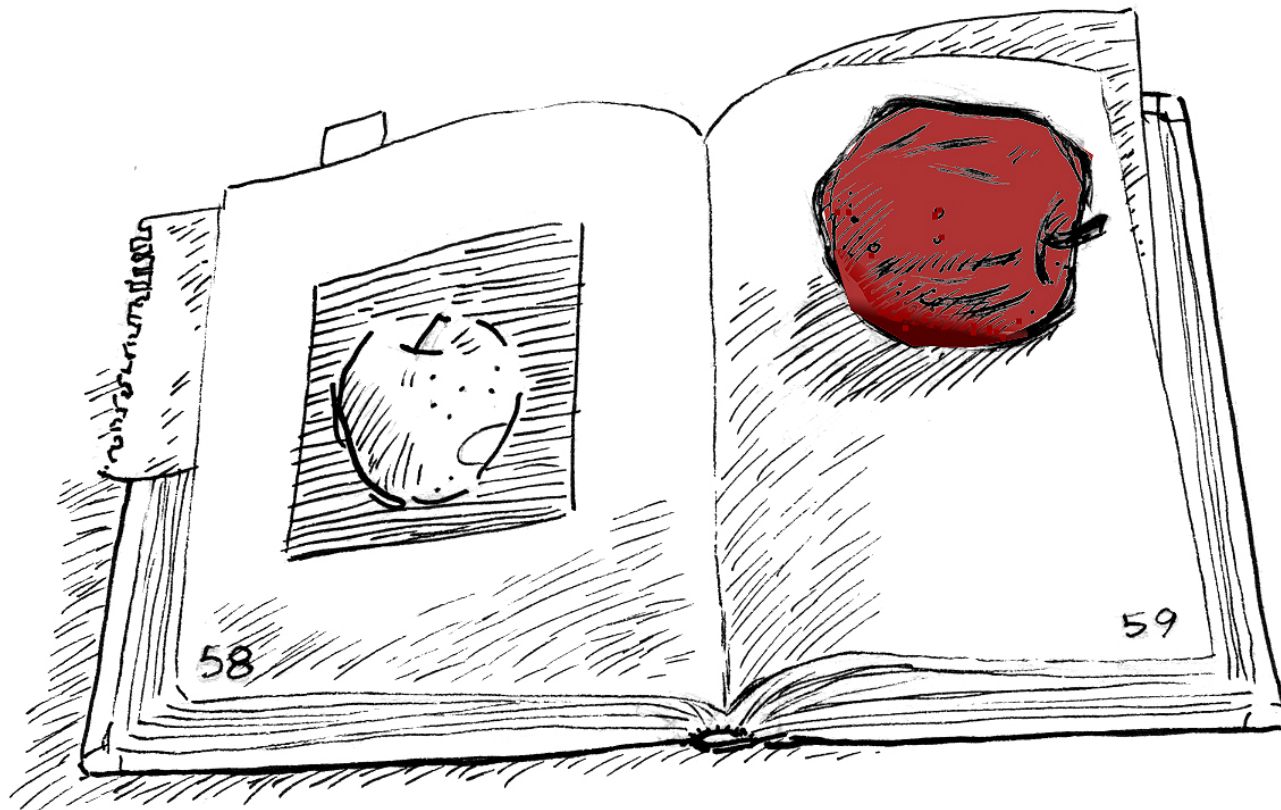


# Critical Analysis & the Reading Process

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# *Guidelines for Reading*

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**You should  
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# *Guidelines for Reading*

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**You should  
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- *Before writing an academic paper, it is important to read the chosen material more than just once.*

# *Guidelines for Reading-First Reading*

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

- Concentrate on the author's opinions, actions of characters and the basic plot.
- Try to enjoy the material as much as possible.

I. Read first for enjoyment, without interruption

A. For nonfiction *and* fiction, notice the use of language and word play

B. If fiction, consider the actions of the characters:

- identify the protagonist and the antagonist
- note the setting and the atmosphere of the scene

II. Afterwards, as soon as possible, determine the emotional impact

A. Do you have any unanswered questions?

B. Did you like the author's observations, opinions, story?

C. Did you relate to any of the opinions or characters?

# Guidelines for Reading-Second Reading

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

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

I. ***For nonfiction***— concentrate on how the author develops

his/her rhetorical defenses:

A. To answer any possible questions

B. To confirm what you already know

II. Determine:

A. Do you understand the line of defense the author utilizes?

B. Can you see his/her point in the argument?

C. Do you agree or disagree?

# *Guidelines for Reading-Second Reading*

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

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

I. ***For fiction***— concentrate on the plot details:

- A. To answer any possible questions
- B. To confirm what you already know

II. Determine:

- A. Journey theme: all protagonists go some form of journey
- B. Conflict type: all protagonists and antagonist have a conflicted relationship
- C. How do the elements affect the developments and actions of the characters?

# Guidelines for Reading-Third Reading

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

- Since you can predict what will happen, you can analyze *in closer details* why characters act or react in the manner they do.
  - Newer insights can be gained regarding the author's strategy and influences.
- I. It is important to be open to the entire work.
    - A. consider how it relates to other readings
    - B. discover what sets it apart from other writings
  - II. Ask yourself what images and devices are used in the argument/story.
  - III. What is the author's main goal for showing this observation/story?
  - IV. ***If fiction***: who do the characters resemble?
  - V. Ask yourself: where have I seen this situation before?  
What inspirations or obvious emulations did the author use?