

Critical Reading



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man and thereby convince the reader that his idea is sound and that all objections to it have been taken care of.

- ◆ Places where the author is appealing to bias or prejudice are identified.
- ◆ Propaganda techniques the author uses are identified.

Evaluation

- ◆ This step is based upon the understanding of the information in the article and the identification of omissions, inaccuracies distortions, and propaganda appeals made by the author. Evaluation should never occur without being preceded by the first two steps of understanding and identification.
- ◆ The author's position, ideas, and points are then evaluated and either accepted or rejected, or judgment is suspended on them.
- ◆ This last course of action is important, for if the reader is not relatively certain of his evaluation, he should suspend judgment until he obtains more information.
- ◆ Flaws in arguments or appeals to emotions weaken the author's point of view but do not invalidate it when there are other valid arguments.
- ◆ The author's frame of reference in relation to his conclusions, the adequacy of his supporting evidence, and the implications of his beliefs are then evaluated.

All three steps should be constantly utilized during critical reading. Particularly for long selections, each point that is encountered should be understood and related to its supporting details, the techniques used in making the point should be identified, and an evaluation should be made of the validity of the author's contention.