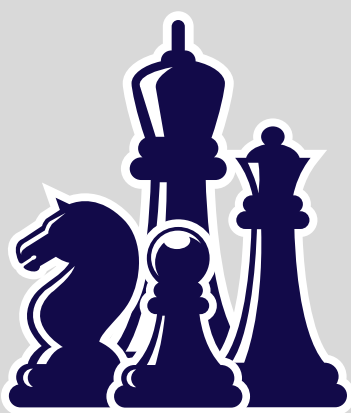


SO MUCH READING, SO LITTLE TIME!

STRATEGIC READING II

Adapted from Chapter Two of *Grad School Essentials* by Dr. Zachary Shore, University of California Press, 2016 (40–55)



OBJECTIVE: CRITIQUE A TEXT

A critique is "a rigorous, probing test of the soundness of the author's claims" (Shore 2016, 41). Follow these steps to identify how authors support their arguments and to help develop your own critical response.

STEP 1: IDENTIFY THE ARGUMENT

Use the Strategic Reading I steps to identify the argument. What main points form the basis of the author's conclusion? These main points are called the **premises**. Restate and write down the premises and conclusion clearly and concisely.



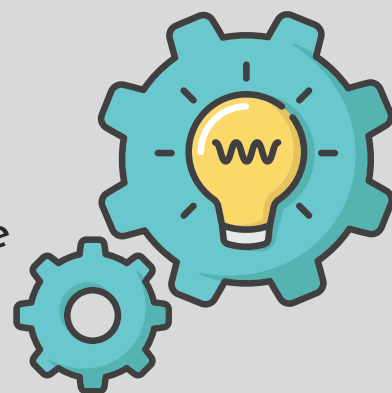
STEP 2: CRITIQUE EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE



Identify the author's key **evidence** and sources of that evidence. Question whether the author's evidence—such as cases, data, and sources—is accurate and relevant to the premises. Does this evidence support the argument?

STEP 3: CRITIQUE THE LOGIC

Identify the **assumptions**—underlying beliefs about how things work and what's true—upon which each premise rests. Are the assumptions valid? Given the author's assumptions, does the argument follow logically? Could X reasonably cause Y?



STEP 4: REASSESS THE AUTHOR'S THESIS

Double-check: do the premises support the argument? If so, you've verified that the author has a strong argument. If not, explain the weaknesses in the author's reasoning and/or evidence.

EXTRA CRITIQUING TIPS!

- A critique is not a book report, complaint, or moral judgement.
- Critiques typically contain praise and criticism.
- Avoid focusing on what the author omits.
- Critique omissions only when relevant to the author's scope.

For more on Strategic Reading, see the links below or make an appointment with a writing coach!

- [CRITICAL THINKING](#)
- [RESIDENT WORKSHOPS](#)
- [FILMED AND WEB-BASED WORKSHOPS](#)
- [MEET WITH A WRITING COACH](#)

