

Promoting Critical Reading Skills Worksheet: Identifying the Topic/ Research Question, Evidence and Arguments

Title, Author of Reading: _____

Pages Assigned: _____

Date: _____

Read the assigned reading, and answer the following questions, to help you identify the author's topic, research question, main arguments, sub-points and evidence presented.

What is the **main topic**, issue, theme and/or research question the author is addressing in this reading?

What **context**, background, history or explanation is given, for this topic/ question?

What is the **author's purpose** in writing about this? Why does the author feel it's important?

What is the **author's position**, viewpoint and/or **theoretical approach** to the topic/ question?

How is the main topic/ question broken down into **separate points, arguments or sections**? List and briefly describe these.

What **evidence** does the author present to support each of these points?

Draw a diagram/ map which summarize the reading's content, purpose and main argument. Try to visually represent the key information in the reading, in a way which makes sense to you, promotes understanding of what the author is trying to say, draws connections among the various points or sub-topics, and demonstrates the flow of the argument. Include the main topic/question, sub-points, arguments and evidence, and show the relationships among these.