Critical Reading

Identify the main argument

* Does the author use any emotive or biased language?
* What is the author asking you to accept or do?
* Is this belief or action reasonable?

Identify the evidence used in support

* Is the evidence relevant to the main argument?
* Is the evidence from a credible source?
* Is there additional evidence that would weaken the main argument?

Look for missing links between the main argument and the evidence provided

* If there is a missing link, is it reasonable?

Look for ambiguous words that require more precise definitions

* Do any words lack definitions?
* Are those words used consistently?

Does the author apply a general principle to a specific case?

* Is the principle applicable?

Does the argument recommend a particular action?

* Would this action have any undesirable effects?