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?