

Questioning

Asking questions about what you are reading, you stimulate your learning, increase your memory of the topic, and improve your critical thinking. The following questions will guide you to examine what you are reading from three levels. You might think of other questions.

Literal

What did the author say?

What are the main ideas presented by the author? How do I know these are the main ideas?

What are the authors' conclusions?

Interpretive

What did the author mean when they said . . . ?

What is the impression the author wants me to have?

What is the author inferring?

If what the author says is true, then this means . . .

If what the author says is not true, then this means . . .

Evaluative

What is the author's purpose in writing this?

Why did the author say that?

Why did the author include this particular information?

Did the author leave out important information, if so, why?

Does the evidence support the conclusions?

How does this information fit with other information on this topic?

Is this information still relevant?

Might this author have a biased viewpoint?

Has the author attempted to persuade the reader with emotive language?

References

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Tertiary Education Commission. (2008). *Teaching adults to read with understanding: Using the learning progressions*. Wellington, New Zealand: Author.