

### Critical Analysis

See the greater truths beyond the literal –  
better understand/use the source material

Things aren't just "what they are"

- meaning, value, organization
- factual elements and claims
- authorial decisions everywhere

### Critical Analysis

Critical Analysis is simply reviewing a  
source to see how well it did or did not  
present its argument

To see how well it does or does not meet  
your needs for **YOUR** argument

### Critical Analysis Step One

Identify the Thesis and main arguments

Read and explore until it feels comfortable

Understand the whole argument first

### Critical Analysis Step One

You should be able to summarize it

Even if you disagree or don't like it, you  
should be able to articulate its points

### Critical Analysis Step Two

**Identify** the Essential Elements

What affected your response + or –

Compare and contrast with other sources  
if necessary

### Critical Analysis Step 3

**Evaluate** the Essential Elements

Why are the elements or details + or -

Look for **specific** examples of what you  
are reacting to

### The Reality Test

Question all examples and numbers

If there's no support or cite, leave it alone

Test the claims against your own world

### Critical Analysis Step 3

Beware ANY source with an absolute position on any argument

Biased or absolute sources can be used, but need to be put into context

### Critical Analysis Step Four

It's not about if you LIKE the source

It's about

whether the source's information helps  
YOUR paper

how credible the source is for an  
Academic paper

### Using Critical Analysis

Always put the information into context

Questionable information is presented as  
such

Solid information is presented as such

The information becomes YOURS as much  
as it is the original source's