

# Faculty of Community Services

## Academic Support & Resource Centre

### How to Comprehend & Critically Analyze a Text

<i>Reading Comprehension</i>	
<b>Skim to get the gist and overall meaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Jot down 2/3 guiding questions focusing on the main ideas/concepts in the text to create purpose</li><li>○ Read the introduction and conclusion</li><li>○ Read topic sentences</li><li>○ Do active reading: underline or highlight</li></ul>
<b>Scan for specific detail</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Write a few questions about the specific details you need to know</li><li>○ Look for answers</li><li>○ Note answers in phrases or short sentences (using point form)</li></ul>
<b>Read thoroughly for comprehension of ideas, concepts, theories</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Read from the beginning to the end of the text</li><li>○ Underline important key words (and jargon) and phrases</li><li>○ Try to understand the writer's main argument</li><li>○ Ask questions during reading</li><li>○ Attempt to answer your questions and quiz yourself after reading</li></ul>
<i>Elements of Critical Reading</i>	
<b>Interpretation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Read to know the meaning of the ideas presented in a text</li><li>○ What can you infer?</li><li>○ What conclusion(s) can you draw?</li></ul>
<b>Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ What assumptions is the author making?</li><li>○ How has the author structured arguments and developed ideas in the text?</li><li>○ Does the evidence support the author's arguments and conclusion?</li></ul>
<b>Synthesis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Bring together points of analysis to support your results</li></ul>
<b>Evaluation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Reading to evaluate the validity of ideas and content of the text; evaluation includes all other critical reading processes to find out the value of information presented through data and/or other evidence</li></ul>