

# Critical Reading and Thinking Checklist

## **Focus**

- I understand why I am reading the material.
- I have previewed the title, introduction, headings and subheadings.
- I have identified what I know about the topic of the reading.
- I have created questions that I hope will be answered by the reading.

## **Understand**

- I have paused at the end of each paragraph to think about the meaning of that paragraph.
- I have written notes on the meaning of each paragraph.
- I have looked up unfamiliar words and used a definition that will allow me to complete the following statement: I will use this definition because \_\_\_\_\_.

## **Use**

- I have rephrased difficult sentences in my own words; then, I have gone back to reread the author's original idea.
- I have practiced using the author's vocabulary to explain the article.
- I have reviewed my annotations, and I listed ideas that the author addressed.

## **Prioritize**

- I have identified why the author wrote the article.
- I have identified the most important ideas from the author's perspective (indicated by repetition, heading/sub-headings or word choice.)
- I have chosen three of the most important ideas from the reading for my purposes, and I can articulate why those ideas are the most important ideas from the reading.

## Study Habits and Critical Reading

- I have access to a dictionary (e.g., dictionary.com.)
- I have allotted space and time to read carefully.
- I am ready to write notes either in my text or in my notebook.
- I have planned a ten to fifteen minute break for every hour of reading.
- I have a space in which I feel comfortable speaking ideas aloud in order to practice expressing vocabulary and complex ideas.
- I have time planned to process the reading and to formulate priorities in the reading.
- I have a plan for contacting my instructor or other resources if there are parts of my reading that are unclear.