# Critical Reading Guide: Text + Context

Title of the text: Author:

## Reading the text: Comprehension

**Main idea**. In one sentence, summarize the *main* point or argument of the text.

**Claim**. Identify one claim in the text.

**Key points**. Paraphrase a key point, example, or passage that interested you.

**Evidence**. In your own words, describe 1-2 compelling examples or pieces of evidence that support the point/argument of the text.

**Conclusion**. What is the ultimate takeaway the text gives us on the topic/issue?

**Personal experience**. What is your experience of the topic? Have you had problems related to it?

**Vocabulary**. What is a word or phrase in the text you didn’t know? Look it up. What does it mean?

**Inquiry**. What is one thing you need more information about? Or, what is one question you have about the content of the text?

## Reading for context: Rhetorical analysis

**The author**. Do an internet search on the author. What did you find out?

**Ethos**. Do you trust the author on the topic/issue? Why or why not?

**Container**. When and where was the text first published? Who will read/see it?

**Audience**. How does the author address or appeal to their readers? What tone does the author use in the text?

**Bias**. What knowledge, values, or beliefs does the author assume the reader shares?

**Types of evidence**. What *types* of evidence does the author use? Types of evidence include facts, examples, statistics, statements by authorities (references to or quotes from other sources), interviews, observations, logical reasoning, and personal experience

**Structure**. How does the author organize the text?

**Purpose**. What question does the author seek to answer in the text? In other words, why do you think they wrote this piece?