Critical Reading Checklist

**What is critical reading?**

Critical reading is “the process of reading that goes beyond just understanding a text. Critical reading involves carefully considering and evaluating the reading, identifying the reading’s strengths and implications, identifying the reading’s weaknesses and flaws” (Massey University)

**Critical Reading Checklist**

1. What kind of text is it?
2. What genre is it part of? (e.g., advertising, news, song, etc.)
3. Does the text have a status? (e.g., canonical, literary, popular)
4. How is it authored? (e.g., individually, anonymously, collectively)
5. What information is readily available about the author(s)?
6. How does this information help you with the reading and understanding of the text?
7. Whose point of view does the text promote?
8. Whose interests does the text foreground?
9. Does the text deliberately exclude any group of people, beliefs, viewpoints...?
10. Does the text expect you to have some sort of assumed background knowledge to understand it?
11. Is this assumed background knowledge dependent on stereotypical assumptions? If so, what are they?
12. Does your reading position align with the one communicated by the author or not? Why?
13. Which voices, if any, are silenced in the text and why?

**Sources**