**Reading Strategies and Techniques**

**🧠 What Are Reading Strategies?**

Reading strategies are **active approaches** that help readers **understand, remember, and evaluate** texts more effectively. Instead of reading passively from beginning to end, good readers use strategies to interact with the text—asking questions, noticing structure, and focusing on important ideas.

These strategies are especially helpful when reading **academic or complex texts**, where you need to:

* Find the **main idea**
* Identify **supporting details**
* Understand **new vocabulary**
* Interpret **author’s purpose** and **tone**

**🔧 Key Reading Strategies (With Clear Examples)**

**1. Skimming**

* **What it is**: Quickly looking through a text to get the general idea.
* **When to use**: Previewing before deep reading, or when you’re short on time.
* **Example**: You open a five-page article and read only the **headings**, **first sentences of paragraphs**, and **conclusion** to get a sense of what it’s about.

**2. Scanning**

* **What it is**: Looking for specific information (a name, date, number, or term).
* **When to use**: When answering questions or doing research.
* **Example**: You scan a news article to find **what year an event happened**.

**3. Predicting**

* **What it is**: Using the title, headings, and visuals to guess what the text is about before reading.
* **Why it helps**: It prepares your brain to process related information.
* **Example**: You see the title *"The Rise of Artificial Intelligence in Education”* and predict the article will discuss **AI tools used in classrooms**.

**4. Questioning**

* **What it is**: Asking yourself questions while reading to stay engaged.
* **Why it helps**: Encourages active thinking.
* **Example**: “What is the author’s main point here?” or “Why did they include this example?”

**5. Summarizing**

* **What it is**: Putting the main points into your own words.
* **Why it helps**: Checks understanding and improves memory.
* **Example**: After reading a paragraph about climate change, you write: *“The paragraph explains that human activity is the biggest contributor to rising temperatures.”*

**Critical Reading — Analyzing Different Types of Texts**

**🎯 What Is Critical Reading?**

**Critical reading** goes beyond simply understanding what a text says — it’s about **analyzing**, **evaluating**, and **questioning** the content.

**A good critical reader:**

* Identifies the **author's purpose and perspective**
* Examines the **logic and strength of arguments**
* Detects **biases, assumptions, and emotional appeals**
* Understands the **structure and tone** of different text types

**🔍 Key Questions for Critical Reading**

Ask yourself:

* What is the **main idea or argument**?
* What **evidence** is used? Is it reliable?
* Does the author make any **assumptions**?
* Is the tone **neutral, persuasive, emotional, or biased**?
* What is the **text’s goal**: to inform, persuade, entertain, or analyze?

**🧾 Types of Texts and How to Analyze Them**

**1. Narrative Texts**

* **Purpose**: Tell a story (real or imagined)
* **Features**: Characters, events, plot, setting
* **Critical Focus**: Analyze themes, character development, and conflict

**2. Expository Texts**

* **Purpose**: Explain, describe, or inform
* **Features**: Logical structure, facts, definitions
* **Critical Focus**: Clarity, organization, factual accuracy

**3. Argumentative Texts**

* **Purpose**: Convince or persuade the reader
* **Features**: Claims, supporting evidence, counterarguments
* **Critical Focus**: Validity of arguments, strength of evidence, logic

**4. Descriptive Texts**

* **Purpose**: Create vivid mental images
* **Features**: Sensory language, imagery, adjectives
* **Critical Focus**: Language use, mood, tone, emotional impact

**5. Analytical / Academic Texts**

* **Purpose**: Examine and evaluate ideas or problems
* **Features**: Thesis, analysis, referencing, formal tone
* **Critical Focus**: Depth of analysis, clarity of reasoning, use of sources