
Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF)
within the project AQHEd-SL

Unit 2 - Snippet 27

Purposeful reading - Introduction and learning outcomes

Most learning from reading, both in and out of school, college or university, depends on your ability to read and comprehend expository text – i.e. written fact-based text that is designed to explain or provide information. Many factors contribute to difficulties you may encounter with expository text, including limited prior knowledge of the topic, your level of interest in the subject or your motivation for reading the text. Another contributing factor could be that you have not yet developed enough sensitivity to the structure of the text and the way the ideas in the text are organized.

Unit 2 aims to help you develop sensitivity to text structure, which will prove useful when you attempt to understand the author's purpose for writing a text. As readers, we are more effective if we can decide with ease what sort of text fits our inquiry. To this end, this unit introduces six types of text frames that support the comprehension of expository text as well as the concept and examples of graphic organizers, which you can utilize as tools to make your thoughts about a text visible. These reading aids will enable you to get a sense of the author's overall purpose by just surveying the text, so that you can decide fairly quickly whether the article you are looking at is something that will prove relevant for your purposes or not.

Having completed the learning activities provided in this unit, you will:

- Have applied reading strategies while practising effective reading
- Be able to identify the author's purpose in expository texts by distinguishing between six types of text frames
- Be able to use appropriate graphic organizers for each text frame to support your text comprehension and prepare you to analyse the author's purpose
- Have developed summarizing skills to write a good text summary, provided you decide to do some extra work