# Centre for Academic Development

Reading template for close reading

Use the reading template on the following page to structure your close reading of individual texts.

The prompt questions in the template are examples, and they act as a good starting point. Download the template and add in your own questions depending on your purpose for reading the text and the type of information you are searching for.

On your own downloaded copy you can make the space between the rows bigger to allow more room for writing your notes.

Why might you need to read closely?

To:

* Prepare for a seminar
* Really understand and retain the information
* Compare closely with other sources in a similar area
* Critically review the source
* Prepare for an assignment that asks you to critique one or two sources in detail.

| **Question** | **My notes** |
| --- | --- |
| Which idea / principle / ideology / perspective / approach is the text based on? |  |
| What is the principal argument or most memorable feature of the text? |  |
| What are three key features of the text?  (e.g. three main points made in the text) |  |
| How are these points justified, supported or explored - what evidence is used? |  |
| What are the limitations, constraints, problems with the ideas in the text? |  |
| Can you identify how the text fits into the current debate on the topic? (Or a historic debate on the topic?) |  |
| How does the text relate to the field / other literature?  (E.g. Texts from previous classes?) |  |
| How does the approach used in the text contradict and / or complement other approaches? |  |
| What are the opportunities for discussion offered by the text?  (Think about the perspective of the text, the methods used, the contributions to our understanding of the issue. Think also about what the text means to you). |  |

(Adapted from North, C. (2009). London School of Economics).