One of the best ways to engage your critical thinking while you are reading is to remember to answer questions. This is a list of the types of questions you might ask, and you may have many more that are specific to the reading you are doing. Use this list as a starting place, and record the answers, or at least the questions if the answers don’t seem obvious at first, directly in the margins of your reading, or in your notes.

**Reading Critically: Questions to Ask**

**Ask questions about the argument:**

1) Is this the writer’s opinion only, or has he created a persuasive argument with evidence here?
2) Are there places where the writer’s argument seems unclear, fuzzy, illogical, or not supported by evidence?
3) If so, are there still other parts of the argument that are strong, or is the text fatally flawed?

**Ask questions about the evidence:**

1) Does the evidence seem accurate?
2) Are quantitative data presented accurately and fairly?
3) Has qualitative data been gathered well and analyzed completely?
4) Is the type of evidence appropriate for the context of the text?

**Ask questions about the logic:**

1) What are claims the author is making?
2) What are the reasons she presents that those claims are true?
3) Is it logical to say that those reasons imply those claims, or are there flaws or fallacies in her logic?

**Ask questions about the author’s assumptions and biases:**

1) What does the author have to be assuming to make his argument work, and do you agree with those assumptions?
2) Does the author discuss her biases explicitly so that you can take them into account as you evaluate her argument?
3) Does the author seem to have biases that he doesn’t admit to that affect how you read his argument?

**Ask questions about your own evolving understanding of the text:**

1) Where are the places you need more clarification?
2) Can you summarize the argument in your own words?