



CRITICAL READING & THINKING

Reading III & IV

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What is it?

- Critical reading means testing the strength of an argument, proposal or explanation in a text.
- It means measuring the ideas in the text against your own ideas and against those of other writers.
- Critical thinking means not passively accepting what you hear or read, but instead actively questioning and assessing it. As you read you should ask yourself the following questions:
 - a. What are the key ideas in this?
 - b. Does the argument of the writer develop logically, step by step?
 - c. Are the examples given helpful? Would other examples be better?
 - d. Does the author have any bias?
 - e. Does the evidence presented seem reliable, in my experience and using common sense?
 - f. Is this argument similar to anything else i have read?
 - g. Do i agree with the writer's views?

Maximiser and minimiser

- Writers try to persuade not only by well-structured argument, but by well-chosen words. They may try to **maximise** the points in favour and to **minimise** the points against their opinion using words such as those highlighted.
- Writers may try to convince their readers by adding words to **emphasize** their message.
- Writers may also try to **distance** themselves from statements which they do not agree with or are not completely confident about.

Ways to emphasize message:

- Choice of modal verbs

Employers **must** ensure that the views of the workforce are represented in the boardroom.

- Using a maximiser

Clearly employers should ensure that the views of the workforce are represented in the boardroom.

- Changing the structure

What employers should ensure is that the views of the workforce are represented in the boardroom.

- Repetition by rephrasing

Employers should ensure that the views of the workforce are represented in the boardroom. **In other words**, they should appoint worker directors.

- Facts can be verified by experiment or by reference to other facts. They are true statements supported by evidence.
- This does not mean every statement presented as a fact is true.
- Facts can also change when new evidence becomes available.
- Opinions are personal beliefs. They are subjective.