

Reading/Watching with Purpose

Reading with Purpose/Watching with Purpose The goal of Reading/Watching with Purpose is to ensure that every student is reading/viewing the required materials with an eye to deeper understanding, figuring out what they don't understand, and coming up with both critical and creative questions to address in their thought papers and face to face discussions. To develop these skills, Dr. Stacey MacKinnon designed this "Reading with Purpose" (and now "Watching with Purpose" as well) approach based loosely on the Question Formulation Technique (www.rightquestion.org).

Reading and Watching with Purpose

Step 1: BEFORE YOU START WATCHING/READING, identify your purpose. Why are you doing this reading or watching this video?

- This helps to identify how you are engaging with the content

Step 2: AS YOU ARE WATCHING/READING, write down the questions, thoughts, and ideas that pop into your mind. This could include:

- Things that need clarification or more explanation (e.g., what do they mean by...? Do they mean....?)
- Need another example (e.g., Is this similar to when/how....?)
- Issues you have with content (e.g., That doesn't make sense to me because...)
- Assumptions the author seems to be making (e.g., They seem to be assuming that....)
- "Extra ideas" (questions that usually start with "but" or "what if") or questions that show you want to know more

Step 3: AS YOU CONTINUE TO WATCH/READ, some of your questions may be answered or your thoughts/ideas may be addressed, when they are check them off on your developing list.

Step 4: WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED WATCHING/READING, write down what you learned (in paragraphs or point form). DO NOT refer back to the article

Step 5: Review your list of questions that remain unanswered and prioritize them based off your needs. These can be used as the basis for clarification during class or office hours, writing thought papers, participating in class discussions, designing presentations, or projects, etc...