Techniques for Analyzing Writing

Critical Reading Strategies
* Questioning What you read*

Techniques
- Double Entry Log
- Critical Reading Guide:
  I. Purpose
  II. Audience/Reader
  III. Occasion
  Reading: Analyze by interpreting, examine images, media, cultural artifacts, receiving textual messages.

IV. Thesis & Main Ideas
V. Organization & Evidence
VI. Language & Style

Summarizing an Essay
*Pre-read first
*Take out main points

- Cite author and title of the text
- Indicate the main ideas of the text
- Use occasional direct quotes of key words/phrases/sentences

- Avoid summarizing specific examples of data.
- Report main ideas as objectively as possible

Responding to an Article/Essay
- Analyze the effectiveness of the text
- Agree/disagree with ideas

- Interpreting and reflecting to the text
- Critiquing the ideas

Supporting the response with evidence
- Combining summary & response into coherent thoughts

Org. & Evidence: Summary
- Where does the author preview the essay's organization?
- How does the author develop new sections of the essay?
- What kind of evidence is used (personal exp., descriptions, statistics, interviews, etc.)?

Org. & Evidence: Response
- At what points were you confused about organization?
- What evidence was most/least effective?
- Where did the author rely on assertions & not evidence?
- Which of your own experiences did you recall as you read the essay?

References
- Published by Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, NJ.
- Glogster EDU, Local Authors Final. Readings for Writing by June Johnson 2007.
- Published by Longman, New York, NY.