Critical Literacy

In English, History, and other subjects at school, students are taught how to practise critical literacy. Critical literacy is the ability to read a source intelligently and accurately. Below are some different ways students are taught critical literacy, as used in schools.

TADPOLE 🐸

Type of Source 📖 📢 🎬	The type of source tells you what to expect from it and how to use it.	• Where is the source? • Is the source a part of a larger work? • Does the source provide a bibliography? • How does the source interpret statistics? • What is the genre?
Author 👨 👩 👴 🧑‍⚕️ 👨‍🏫 👷	The background of the author tells you the point-of-view of the source.	• Is the author qualified in the subject? • What is the political bias of the author? • Who is the author? • Where did they live? • What is their job? • Why was the author motivated to write this source?
Date ⏳	Old sources are not automatically more reliable than new sources. Similarly, new sources are not more reliable than old sources.	• When was the source written? • How old is the evidence used in the source? • What was happening around the time the source was written?
Purpose 💬 ⚖️ 🚫 ♀ ✝ 💲	The purpose of the source tells you how it should be used.	• Who are the targeted readers or audience? • Does the source try to convince the readers about something? • Is this source written to entertain the readers? • Was the author paid to write this source?
Opinion or Fact 💬 📊	All sources are opinionated, and some are more opinionated than others.	• Is this source an opinion or compilation of opinions? • Is this source a presentation of factual information?

		- Is this source presenting facts in an argument? - Is the argument valid and sound? - Is it objective or subjective?
Language 😔 😡 😊 😂	The language gives clues to biases or fallacies.	- Is it defensive or confrontational? - Is it formal or casual? - Is it respectful or demeaning?
Evidence 🕵️	Unreliable evidence can bring down your argument.	- Can this source be used as reliable evidence to support your argument? - Does this source provide evidence contrary to your argument?

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Common Biases and Fallacies 🏛️

Biases	Fallacies
✅ **Confirmation Bias.** You look for ways to justify existing beliefs, and ignore information that conflicts with them.	🧑‍🌾 **Strawman.** Misrepresenting someone's argument to make it is easier to attack.
😇 **Halo Effect.** How much you like someone or something influences your judgements about them, instead of controlling irrelevant influences.	👤 **Black or white.** When two alternatives are presented as the only possibilities, when more possibilities exist.
💢 **Reactance.** You'd rather do the opposite of what someone is trying to make you do. Remember that "wisdom springs from reflection, folly from reaction".	🌿 **Appeal to nature.** Arguing that because something is 'natural' it is automatically valid, justified, inevitable, or good.
📉 **Declinism.** You see the past as better than it was and expect the future to be worse than it is likely. Try to avoid nostalgia.	💬 **Anecdotal.** Using personal experiences or isolated examples instead of a valid argument.

See https://yourbias.is/ and https://yourlogicalfallacyis.com/ for more!