

Table 1.1: Linking a critical approach to your reading with a self-critical approach to your writing

<i>As a critical reader of the literature, you:</i>	<i>As a self-critical writer of assessed work, you:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the authors' purpose in writing the account examine the structure of the account to help you understand how the authors develop their argument seek to identify the main claims the authors make in putting forward their argument adopt a sceptical stance towards the authors' claims, checking whether they support convincingly what they assert question whether the authors have sufficient backing for the generalizations they make check what the authors mean by key terms in the account and whether they use these terms consistently consider whether and how any values guiding the authors' work may affect what they claim distinguish between respecting the authors as people and being sceptical about what they write keep an open mind, retaining a conditional willingness to be convinced check that everything the authors have written is relevant to their purpose in writing the account and the argument they develop expect to be given the information that is needed for you to be in a position to check any other literature sources to which the authors refer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> state your purpose in what you write to make it clear to your readers create a logical structure for your account that assists you with developing your argument, and make it clear to your readers state your own main claims clearly to help your readers understand your argument assume that your readers adopt a sceptical stance to your work, so you must convince them by supporting your claims as far as possible avoid making sweeping generalizations in your writing which you cannot justify to your readers define the key terms you employ in your account so that your readers are clear what you mean and use these terms consistently make explicit any values that guide what you write avoid attacking authors as people but are sceptical about what they write assume that your readers are open-minded about your work and are willing to be convinced if you can adequately support your claims sustain your focus throughout your account, and avoid irrelevancies and digressions in what you write ensure that your referencing in the text and the reference list is complete and accurate so that your readers are in a position to check your sources

From

Poulson, L. & Wallace, M (2004) *Learning to Read Critically in Teaching and Learning*, London: Sage