

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