

## READING FOR LEARNING QUESTIONS

Always name your Word document with your last name and some identifier of the reading, e.g., *yourlastname.authername.doc*.

For each reading assignment, answer the following questions completely *and concisely*:

1. What is (are) the author's main conclusion(s)? As appropriate, discuss why the conclusion is important, i.e., why we should care. This section should be tight and usually no more than 3-5 sentences.
2. By what process does the author arrive at this conclusion? This is a question about methodology, and it is not asking for a book report. Some questions to ask yourself include: was the paper an opinion, theory, qualitative, or quantitative piece, or some combination of these? What kind of sources (including data sources) did the author use? How heavily did the conclusion depend on the author's logical argument?
3. How does the author's conclusion fit with what you already know (explicitly or intuitively) or other things you have read or learned in other classes?
4. Are the conclusions supported by enough evidence to make the author's argument credible, i.e., for you to believe it? If not, what is missing? It is appropriate to make references to number two above in this discussion.

Related questions: Who is the author? What organization or perspective does s/he represent? What goal(s) or agenda(s) seem to motivate the author's writing? (If you've written about this author on a previous RFL assignment, you may cut and paste information about the author from your previous work. But please provide a fresh discussion of the author's motivation for the current article or set of chapters.)

5. What else would you like to know? What questions remain unanswered (or, what new questions has this writing assignment brought to mind?) These questions should encourage discussion rather than stifle it and should, in general, not be simple factual questions. An example of a question that might stifle discussion is "I wonder what the author was thinking when s/he wrote Y?" Factual questions are questions that you could look up if you took the time and also do not facilitate discussion. For example, "When were women teachers allowed to marry while continuing to work?" If you do ask a factual question, you should also provide the answer.

Be sure that you thoroughly understand the meaning of all words used by the author. Expand your vocabulary by providing definitions – somewhere in your RFL assignment – for those words you cannot readily define. (e.g. [www.dictionary.com](http://www.dictionary.com))

Finally: *Please proofread and edit your document before submitting it.* If I have to read a sentence more than once to understand it, your writing is not clear enough.