

Topics for discussion (Chapter 1)

1. Why do you read? Explain in no more than 50 words why you were motivated to continue reading (the printed materials in question) (Read p. 3).
2. How do you know whether you are an active reader? Evaluate yourself (based on your reading behavior past year) and determine how many of your reading “habits” that show you are an active reader (Read pp. 3-10).
3. How do you know whether you think critically or not when you are reading? Evaluate yourself (based on one printed material you have read recently) and see how much critical thinking has been involved when you do the reading (Read pp. 3-10 and provide your own examples).
4. What are the five keys to build your confidence and ability as a college reader, critical thinker, and (public) writer (Read pp. 11-15 and provide examples based on “A Letter of Complaint”)?
5. Among the 11 options for writing (pp. 18-20), which one do you think is the easier one for you to do at this moment? Explain with substantial examples.
6. How do you usually respond to a printed material (pp. 20-22)? Explain with substantial examples.
7. Think about the differences between “reading” and “perusing.”
8. What makes a good essay? What are the basic components of a good essay?
8. Read the sample essay on **page 26** and try to answer the five questions on page 27.
10. After previewing the “overview” of the composing process in the textbook, try to recollect the writing processes you have had employed most frequently (be honest to yourself) and interpret why.
11. How do we annotate an essay? Try this on page 40 by reading the short essay written by Bertrand Russell.
12. Find something to read and make your own annotation regarding the essay you have chosen to read (mail the annotation to the class blog: Composition 1 (2008fall))