

**How to Read Classic Texts:
Reading for Understanding and Transformation**

1. *Context*: author, type of text, purpose, historical background.

2. *What does the text say?*

Definitions of unknown or unclear words:

Definitions of key terms

Unclear sentences:

(Use back if necessary)

4. My paraphrase of the basic point/thesis of entire text:

3. *Compare and contrast to basic positions of other leading thinkers?* (basic position, argument, evidence)

Basic Point of View:	Name Author 1 _____	Name Author 2 _____	Name Author 3 _____	My summary of similarities/differences
Argument 1:				
Evidence for 1:				
Argument 2:				
Evidence for 2:				

Argument 3:				
Evidence for 3:				
Argument 4:				
Evidence for 4:				

4. *Critical Evaluation of text:*

Strengths (argument, logic, evidence)	Weakness (fallacies, omissions, weak or missing evidence)

My reflections on my interpretation, my conclusion and my call to action:

(Summarize the overall issue and its different sides. Then take a position based on on what I think is really true. Support my position with reasoning using evidence that I cite, using facts, examples, quotes from the texts – all cited with accurate footnotes.)

What change does my point of view imply? Should we change our minds, behave differently or take action?

