COM803-12 - Hermeneutics and Communication

Acep Loi

Omega Graduate School

January 26, 2025

Professor

Dr. James Strecker

Select One (1) Core Essential Element from the Syllabus Outline:

a. Create a 350-word original discussion paper (with cited sources) during the week

of the residency. Be prepared to discuss and engage with other students during

the live sessions. Post this document in DIAL.

b. Professor will check for quality of content and word-count requirements. Grade

assigned will be Credit or No Credit (CR/NC).

**Reading Techniques for Scholarly Subject Research**

Effective reading techniques are essential for scholarly subject research, enabling reader to interpret texts based on the material, context, and their specific application. Skilled readers approach texts with purpose, adapting their reading methods to suit the material and situation in order to get the author’s intended meaning. However, many readers struggle with this task and often project their own ideas to the text, unintentionally distorting the author’s message (Paul & Elder, 2003). This highlights the need for critical engagement with the material, as failing to do so can lead to misinterpretation and a loss of the original meaning.

After acknowledging the risks of misinterpretation, it is important to understand how we approach texts. Reading can serve two primary purposes: gathering facts and understanding their significance. While both are valuable, they must be applied appropriately in different situations. When reading purely for information, we collect facts, but to truly understand and learn from the text, we must get the significance of those facts. According to Adler and Van Doren, if an author only presents facts without offering deeper insights or clear explanations, we may become informed but not enlightened. In contrast, when an author provides new perspectives or profound insights, we must read them with greater care and attention, distinguishing this kind of reading from casual media consumption like newspapers or magazines (Adler & Van Doren, 2011). This idea is further enriched by Sire, who emphasized that reading should be be more than just gathering information or seeking entertainment. He emphasizes the value of having a wide variety of books and exploring different perspectives. Reading for perspective allows readers to understand an author’s worldview and engage deeply with the meanings behind their writing. This approach not only enhances knowledge but also provides greater enjoyment (Sire, 1988).

In conclusion, effective reading requires an active, purposeful approach that goes beyond information gathering. By reading critically, with attention to both the facts and their deeper significance, readers can fully appreciate the value of the material and enhance their understanding of the author’s intent. The skill of reading for perspective allows for a richer, more fulfilling engagement with texts and supports both intellectual growth and personal enrichment.

WORKS CITED

Adler, M. J., & Van Doren, C. (2011). *How to read a book: The classic guide to intellegent reading*. Touchstone, Simon & Schuster.

Paul, R. W., & Elder, L. (2003). *The thinker’s guide to how to read a paragraph: The art of close reading*. The Foundation for Critical Thinking.

Sire, J. W. (1988). *How to read slowly: Reading for comprehension*. Waterbook Press.