

Top 5 Tips for Teaching Metacognitive Critical Reading



Integrate Reading Pedagogy

The most effective ways to integrate metacognition all involve being open, explicit, and vulnerable with our students. Build that into your course plans from the beginning and the opportunities for students to *discuss reading* as well as *complete the reading* will feel essential.



Think About Cognition

Teaching metacognitive critical reading assumes we are building readers through reading habits alongside covering content. We must acknowledge that while students know how to read, they may not know how to read the way *we do* or the way *we want them to* for our discipline.



Hold Students Accountable

“It’s in the syllabus” does not work. Strategies like previewing the text, thinking aloud, and sharing annotations set expectations, which are followed up by using the reading in some way in every class, holding students accountable for exploring content individually and building their aptitude.



Listen to Student Feedback

If students feel like they’re not getting anything out of a strategy, they’re not going to use it. As a part of their reading accountability, check in about effectiveness and their experience. It’s a win-win: you get to continuously improve, and they get to flex their metacognitive reflection muscles.



Encourage Self-Regulation

Self-regulation is an integral part of successful metacognitive development. Short, low-stakes assignments that ask students to consider what has worked for them, what has not, and why help them have increased facility in deeper and broader contexts.