

Help and guideline for how to approach the text

analyze the text according to its *problem, goal, construction elements and principles*. Get a feeling of the ‘design’ proposed by the text for the problem at issue in it. Orient your reading of your text on the following questions:

Who wrote this text for whom?

(what is the (rough) biographical background, academic context, what other fields of publication or lecturing, target audience; et cetera)

What is the problem at issue in this text?

(what is the topic; is it a rather new topic or has it been troubling people for a long time; what other problems does it relate to; et cetera)

Why is the addressed problem a problem?

(why is the topic worth writing about; why is it worth writing about at the time the text was composed; et cetera)

What is the goal of the text?

(e.g. what genre does it belong to? does it want to give an introduction or overview into a field? Does it want to propose an interpretation? Is it a comment on someone else’s view? Does it want to provoke action? Et cetera)

What is the abstract metrics, according to which the text treats its problem? (e.g. a series of logical steps – what are the assumptions guiding the argumentation; or a series of suggestive attitudes woven into an overall dramaturgy – what are the expectations the suggestive attitudes support/disappoint/counter; are these expectations to be considered common sense or rather clichés, or part of an expert discourse; et cetera).

What are the elements (building blocks) and the steps (dramaturgy)? (how can you get yourself an overview of the analyzed material?)

What is the topology of these elements (what concepts or data are related to what other concepts or data, how could the conceptual or data neighborhoods be clustered?)