

## Deep Reading

**NOTE:** Deep reading is an approach to written response that integrates non-evaluative observation and description. (Handout by Carmen Werder of Western Washington University. 1997)

### Instructions

Read the paper, article or document thoroughly. Write down as many objective features about the paper, article or document as you can. What do you notice?

### **Examples:**

- Long or short or varied sentences?
- Types of words chosen—short and concise or flowery?
- Use of jargon or acronyms?
- Multiple or few paragraphs?
- Amounts of verbs, adjectives, adverbs or nouns?
- What is the mode or genre?
- Does it use facts and/or or anecdotes?
- What are the intellectual activities employed (memorization, comprehension, application, synthesis, analysis, evaluation, creation)?
- Are there headings or transitions?
- Thesis or hypothesis driven?
- Is it organized chronologically or by topic?
- Lots of quotes?
- Does it deal with a process or a concept?
- Does it show or tell (or both)?
- Is the writing expressive or transactional?

(These observations are to be non-judgmental observations; they are descriptions that record the features or traits of the writing; they do not evaluate those features.)

Discuss the features of the paper, article or document with your group.

**SEPARATE PROCESS:** Create a metaphor for what the writer seems to be doing with this piece of writing. For example, does this paper, article or document read like the writer is a tour guide showing you the sights of a popular tourist attraction? Does it read like the writer is a commuter driver and is just trying to get the reader from one place to the next in the most expedient fashion?