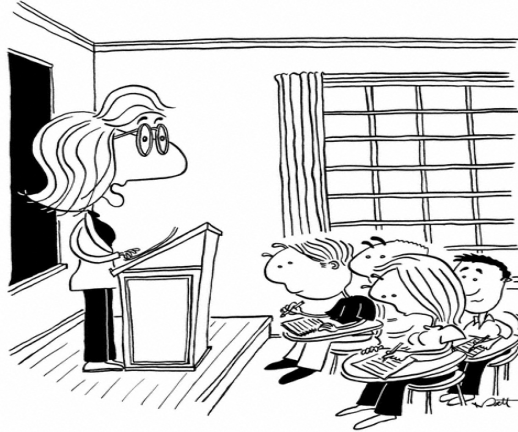


Recognizing a Personal Response



"When writing your essays, I encourage you to think for yourselves while you express what I'd most agree with."

It can sometimes be difficult to synthesize one's personal opinion with the content read critically in preparation for a paper. This is important to overcome, however, as recognizing one's personal response is essential to good writing.

While reading, keep in mind the following questions:

What does the author think, and why do they hold that opinion?

What information do you disagree with or agree with and why?

What passages bring to mind your own experience or expertise?

What have you learned from reading?

What about this text confuses you?

What would you like to know more about?

By noting personal responses, it is possible to increase your understanding of a given work. These personal responses can then be used in the preparation of a thesis or the analysis of a text in your own writing.