

“TLDR”

Solving a Pol-Soc Problem

Not everybody reads the same way,
but until you find a way that works
for you, try this...

Before You Read:

- Do you have a reading partner? (somebody with whom you can discuss the text)
- “Pre-Read” (Jot down what you know about the author, the topic under discussion, and any personal experience of the issue)
- Do a quick Internet search to familiarize yourself with the broad strokes of the issues
- Turn off your Phone
- Turn off your laptop
- Got to a quiet room where you won't be interrupted
- Have a dictionary to hand
- Have a pen/pencil/paper to hand

While You Read:

- Note key concepts and key terms that you will need to be able to explain to others
- Note relevant supporting evidence and examples
- Identify vocabulary that is new (try and work out the meaning from the context, or if it's possible to continue reading without looking it up)
- Develop a set of shorthand symbols that will help you to review the text quickly before writing about it in an essay (a symbol for surprise, agreement, disagreement, confusion, importance, irrelevance, and links to other ideas will help)
- Evaluate the quality of your own reading (Did I zone out for any section? Do I need to re-read that last paragraph? Do I understand the flow of the argument?) Adjust your reading as necessary...

After You Read:

- **Summarize: PARAPHRASE** the author's argument (i.e. re-write elements in your own words). Focus on the 'flow' of the argument. Before you start to write, it can be helpful to speak out loud to clarify your thoughts before committing them to paper
- **Criticize: (not just be critical)** Compile a list of the elements of the text that you agree with, and disagree with. Which correlate with your “lived experience” and which contradict it? Think WWXT (What would 'X' (One of the Pol Soc “Key Thinkers” say about this? (i.e. try and put yourself in the place of that thinker)
- **Strategize: What next?** Are there other texts that I can identify that lead on logically from this text? What might contradict the key ideas? If I'm still confused, who can I ask? Are there footnotes and/or a bibliography that can help me to dig deeper?
- **Discussion: Set a specific time** when you and your reading partner can discuss the text. Compile a list of questions to ask each other, and listen as much as you talk...

Title of Text: _____

Author: _____

“Over to You...”

Source of Text: _____

Reliability? _____

Take your own notes (It's how your brain works best!)

SUMMARIZE:

CRITICIZE:

STRATEGIZE: