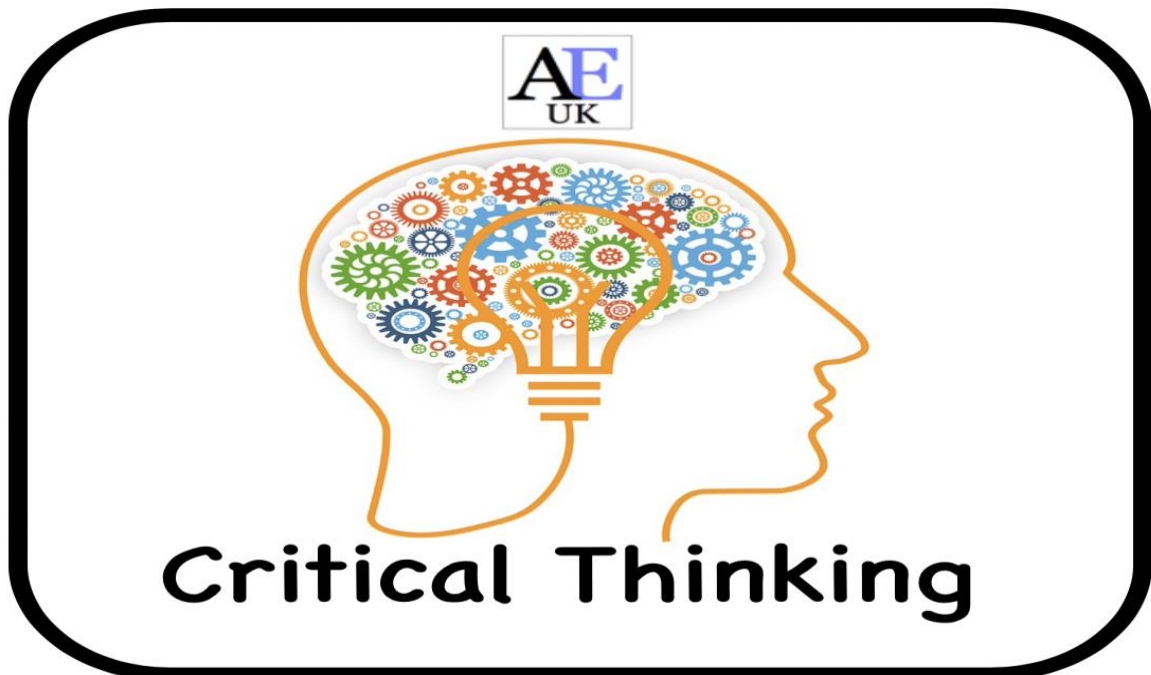


# AE Academic English UK

## Critical Thinking



## Reading Text Analysis 10

War

EXAMPLE

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## Critical Thinking: Reading Text Analysis 10

### EXAMPLE

#### Lesson Plan

**Aim:** to provide quality practice in developing analytical critical reading skills.

#### 1. Preparation

- Reading text 'War' for each student. [Page 3](#)
- Answer sheet (one sheet between two). [Page 4-5](#)

#### 2. Introduction

- Ask students to discuss: 'What is critical reading?'
- Try to elicit key terms and ideas: *questioning / critique / analysis / evaluation / validity / evidence / bias / opinion / stance / credibility / reliability / synthesis.*
- **EXTRA IDEAS! Go here:** *Critical thinking Dictogloss / Critical thinking videos / Bloom's Higher-level thinking skills* <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/critical-thinking>

#### 3. Set up

- Hand out the reading text 'War'.
- Explain that you want the students to apply the critical thinking skills of analysing and evaluating to the text.
- Give examples of the two terms:  
**Analysis is to draw connections among ideas:** to examine / to question / to compare.  
**Evaluation is to justify a stand or decision:** to judge / to identify support and credibility / to appraise / to critique.

#### 4. The lesson

- As a whole group, do the first paragraph together. **Explain there are three possible problems.**
- Give the students 5-10 minutes to read the paragraph and try to identify areas in the paragraph can be questioned or critiqued.
- Students can conduct internet research to check information.
- Feedback individually or as a group using the answer sheet for guidance.
- Students work individually: Allow the students 20-30 minutes to read and highlight possible areas of question, critique or appraisal. **Explain there are ten possible problems to find.**

#### 5. Feedback

- Feedback in pairs - students share their ideas and justify their answers.
- Feedback as a whole class. Teacher highlights key answers and elicits other possible critiques.

**Disclaimer:** There are a variety of different answers to this activity.

**War** EXAMPLE

C. Wilson &amp; H. Kennedy (2024)

It has been claimed that almost 40 million people have died as a result of active combat over the last two hundred or so years, and although the majority of those deaths occurred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century (Herre et al., 2024), the world feels much less stable than ever before. Events such as the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, where deaths have risen 176%, the proliferation of military regimes in nations such as Niger, with deaths increasing by 283%, and both China displaying excessive force regarding the [redacted] relentlessly pursuing nuclear weapons, have all led us to believe that 2023 has been considered to be one of the [redacted] (Herre et al., 2024; Pinna, 2021). [redacted] event has been Russia's full-scale and unfairly aggressive invasion of neighbouring Ukraine, which has fuelled [redacted] Empire could return, [redacted] could unjustifiably invade their neighbours and therefore spark World War III (Bloom, 2022). Thus, this feeling of [redacted] realisation for [redacted] to increase their stock of military equipment in the event of having to fight – so much so that global military [redacted] (Kirka, 2024).

With the increase in the number of deadly conflicts around [redacted] and with it so [redacted] that the US claims almost 40% of all global arms sales, followed by Russia, France, Germany and China (Bloom, 2022). In [redacted] (2021) [redacted] the Middle East has seen the largest number of arms imports, with the majority for Saudi Arabia, whose [redacted] and the UK, [redacted] between 2016 and 2020. She goes on to say that Spain in particular made an arms deal with Saudi Arabia in 2020 that [redacted] -Ukraine conflict, [redacted] manufacturers Lockheed, Raytheon and BAE [redacted] increased, making the defence industry [redacted]

Thus, concerns about the role of these powerful nations play in conflicts in other countries are growing considerably. According to Pinna (2021), due to [redacted] United [redacted] requested sales of arms from Europe to stop, but their power is limited. For example, it is the individual members of the [redacted] licences, so the [redacted] these are compliant with security requirements, and as there is no embargo nor export ban currently, it [redacted], as Bloom (2022) [redacted] lasting peace, we must look at what really lies at the root of growing combativeness, that is to say, [redacted] m to lower their military [redacted], and imposing sanctions on companies who advocate for more defence expenditure.

**References**

- Bloom, P., (2022). *How the world's arms giants are making billions from [redacted]* [redacted] [Accessed 14.08.2024].
- Herre, B., Rodés-Guirao, L., Roser, M., Hasell, J., and Macdonald, B., (2024). [redacted] at: <https://ourworldindata.org/xxxxxxx/> [Accessed 14.08.2024].
- [redacted] *faces a 'dangerous decade' as instability and military spending rise, a new report says* [online]. Available at: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/xxxxxxx/> [Accessed 15.08.2024]
- Pinna, M., (2021). [redacted] ? [online]. Available at: <https://www.euronews.com/my-europe/2021/07/23/xxxxxxx/> [Accessed 15.08.2024].

## Possible critical evaluation **ANSWERS**

It has been claimed that almost 40 million people have died as a result of active combat over the last two hundred or so years, and although the majority of those deaths occurred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century <sup>(1)</sup> (Herre et al., 2024), the world feels much less stable than ever before <sup>(2)</sup>. Events such as the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, where deaths have risen 176%, the proliferation of military regimes in nations such as Niger, with deaths increasing by 283%, <sup>(3)</sup> and both China displaying excessive force regarding the South China Sea and North Korea relentlessly pursuing nuclear weapons, have all led us to believe that 2023 has been considered to be one of the most dangerous years in history <sup>(4)</sup> (Herre et al., 2024; Pinna, 2021). Perhaps the most impactful event has...

- 1) How many deaths exactly? What about the deaths as an indirect result of war?
- 2) Contradiction to facts here with the word 'ever': According to the Global Peace Index (2024), *'The world has become less stable in the past 17 years with substantial increases in political instability, number of conflicts, deaths from conflicts and violent demonstrations'*.
- 3) This is a significant number of deaths, but this war has never ever been global news. Why? More information: Human Rights Watch (2023).
- 4) Seems a credible source (Our World Data) but if you check the article's statistical graph for *'Deaths in armed conflicts based on where they occurred'* the data only goes back to 1989.

**ALL ANSWERS ARE INCLUDED IN PAID VERSION...**