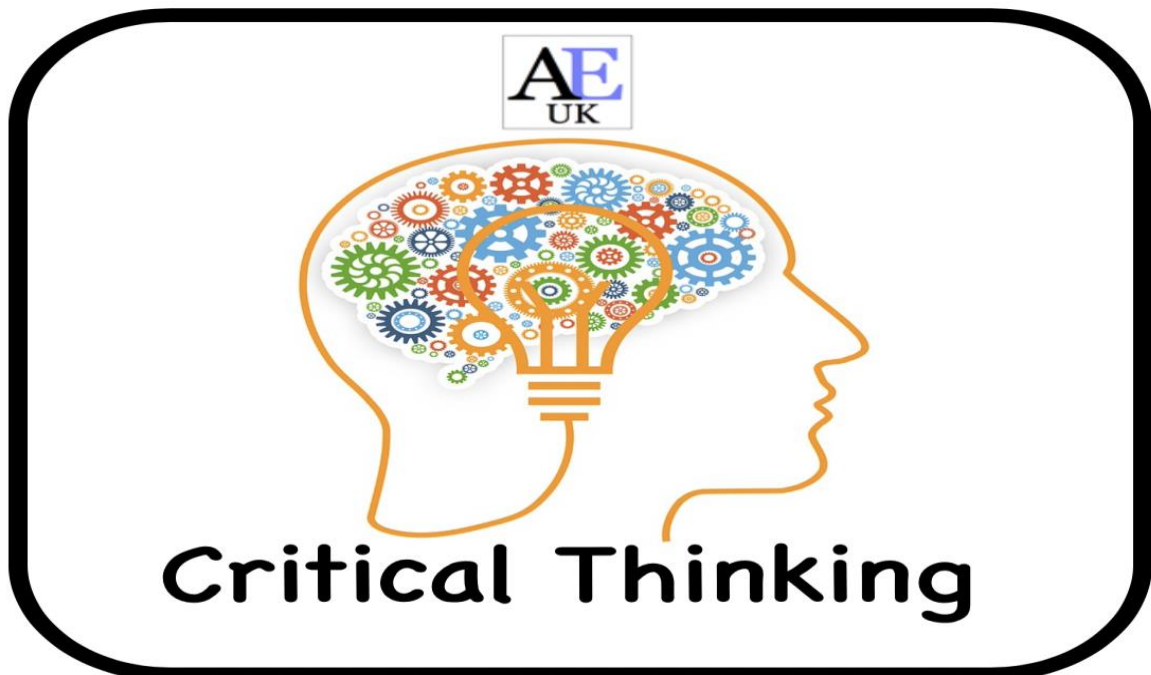


# AE Academic English UK

## Critical Thinking



## Reading Text Analysis 9

Reality TV  
EXAMPLE

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## Critical Thinking: Reading Text Analysis 9

### EXAMPLE

#### Lesson Plan

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

#### 1. Preparation

- Reading text 'Reality TV' 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 'Reality TV'.
- 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.

## Reality TV EXAMPLE

C. Wilson & H. Kennedy (2024)

Reality television, or reality TV for short, can be defined as ‘a type of programming involving contributors who are usually members of the public, removed from their ordinary day-to-day lives for a period of time and put into an environment or situation which is constructed for the purposes of making a programme’ (Channel 4, n.d.). Its popularity gained traction mostly between 2000 and 2011, with one report claiming that in the US, over 33% of the weekly viewership of the fifty most watched [redacted]. The reason for such high numbers of viewers could be due to our craving for drama, which can encompass such themes [redacted], competition [redacted] notoriety, and watching people struggling or making tough decisions, as it causes us to become emotionally [redacted], without [redacted] of the negative consequences of the situations. Instead it encourages us to reflect on our own [redacted] and [redacted] similar [redacted] (Smyth 2022; Harvard University, 2021).

More recent reality TV shows, [redacted], have often been described as controlled, inauthentic, and potentially damaging. This is largely due to how reality [redacted], which is usually [redacted] curated to fit a particular size or look. Examples would be Love Island, Married at First Sight, Made in Chelsea and [redacted]. According to [redacted] body [redacted] among impressionable, young people can lead to feelings of shame and disgust, anxiety and depression. Their [redacted] claims that [redacted] year-olds [redacted] about their [redacted] thoughts and feelings, and 15% having self-harmed or deliberately hurt themselves. The most significant [redacted] [redacted] as the most desirable, and further feeds other unrealistic aspirations in the [redacted] before, [redacted] (MHF, 2019).

Notwithstanding, current reality TV programmes have proven to be successful in raising awareness of [redacted] and [redacted] and [redacted] after watching the show *The Undateables*, a show which follows people with a range of disabilities looking for love, [redacted] of the difficulties [redacted] 80% realised they had many things in common. In another Channel 4 show, *Bride and Prejudice*, in [redacted] to their upcoming [redacted] believed that the show could help society overcome [redacted] regarding interracial or interfaith marriage, [redacted] class.

[redacted] the initial rise in viewing figures during the first half of [redacted] become less popular [redacted] again be in favour, it is clear that they not only must be relatable to a wide range of viewers, but also carefully consider [redacted] they send [redacted] audiences.

### References

Channel 4, (n.d.). *Submission* [redacted] [online]. Available at: <http://data.parliament.uk/xxxxxxxxxxx/html> [Accessed 16.08.2024]

Harvard University, (2021). *Reality Check: How* [redacted] TV [online]. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 15.08.2024]

Mental Health Foundation (MHF), (2019). *Mental Health Foundation criticises* [redacted] [online]. Available at: [redacted] [Accessed 16.08.2024]

[redacted] *Affect Our Lives and Society* [online]. Available at: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/gb/xxxxxxxxxxx/> [Accessed 15.08.2024]

## Possible critical evaluation **ANSWERS**

Reality television,<sup>(1)</sup> or reality TV for short, can be defined as ‘a type of programming involving contributors who are usually members of the public, removed from their ordinary day-to-day lives’<sup>(2)</sup> for a period of time and put into an environment or situation which is constructed for the purposes of making a programme’ (Channel 4, n.d.). Its popularity gained traction mostly between 2000 and 2011, with one report claiming that in the US, over a third of the weekly viewership of the fifty most watched programmes was dedicated to reality TV shows<sup>(3)</sup>. The reason for such high numbers of viewers could be due to our craving for drama, which can encompass such themes as self-interest vs. self-sacrifice, betrayal, competition for love or money, fame and notoriety, and watching...

- 1) Who first coined the term ‘reality TV’?
- 2) Fails to describe all types of reality TV shows today. More recent ones involve following people in their day-to-day lives, thus not removed and not always general members of the public; some are already famous.
- 3) This claim is based on a source, but no reference is given (See Buchholz, 2023).
- 4) ...

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