Useful questions to ask while reading intensively

1. **What does the writer want me to accept? Why?** Try to identify exactly what the author is arguing. The argument is usually stated at the beginning of the article or chapter.

2. **Are there relevant and sufficient reasons to support the writer’s argument?** Look for the reasons behind the writer’s argument. Are they backed up by evidence?

3. **Is the argument logical?** The argument should be clearly presented at the beginning of the article followed by reasons which support or contradict the argument.

4. **Are there any exceptions?** The writer might make broad arguments, but there might be circumstances where these don’t apply. Can you think of any?

5. **What is the language used by the writer?** Define the key terms used by the writer and check if they were used consistently throughout the article. (Wallace & Wray, 2006)

6. **From what perspective is the writer coming?** Consider the underlying values of the writer that may be influencing his/her claims. (Ibid, p. 12)

7. **What are the sources?** Evaluate the sources the writer used. Are they objective? How accurate and current are they?

8. **What is the conclusion of the writer?** Check if the conclusion is consistent to what the writer has previously argued.

Source: