



BREAKING DOWN TEXTS: HOW CLOSE READING  
FUELS CRITICAL THINKING

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**Abstract:** *Close reading is a method of detailed textual analysis that plays a significant role in fostering critical thinking skills. This paper explores the relationship between close reading and critical thinking, examining how close reading encourages analytical thinking, inference, evidence-based reasoning, and reflection. Through a review of relevant literature and an analysis of practical applications, this study highlights the importance of close reading in academic and real-world contexts. Findings suggest that implementing close reading strategies can enhance comprehension and cognitive skills, ultimately contributing to a more informed and reflective society.*

**Key Words:** *Close reading, critical thinking, textual analysis, inference, evidence-based reasoning, cognitive skills.*

**Annotatsiya:** *Sinchiklab o'qish (close reading) matnni batafsil tahlil qilish usuli bo'lib, tanqidiy fikrlash ko'nikmalarini shakllantirishda muhim rol o'ynaydi. Ushbu maqolada sinchiklab o'qish va tanqidiy fikrlash o'rtasidagi o'zaro bog'liqlik o'rganilib, sinchiklab o'qishning tahliliy fikrlash, xulosa chiqarish, dalillarga asoslangan mulohaza yuritish va refleksiya kabi jihatlarini qanday rivojlantirishi tahlil qilinadi. Tegishli adabiyotlarni ko'rib chiqish va amaliy qo'llanilish tahlili orqali ushbu tadqiqot sinchiklab o'qishning akademik va real hayotdagi ahamiyatini ta'kidlaydi. Tadqiqot natijalari shuni ko'rsatadiki, sinchiklab o'qish strategiyalarini qo'llash, tushunish va kognitiv ko'nikmalarni rivojlantirishga yordam beradi hamda yanada ongli va fikrlovchi jamiyatni shakllantirishga xizmat qiladi.*

**Kalit so'zlar:** *Sinchiklab o'qish, tanqidiy fikrlash, matn tahlili, xulosa chiqarish, dalillarga asoslangan mulohaza, kognitiv ko'nikmalar.*

**Introduction.** In an era of information overload, the ability to read and analyze texts critically is more crucial than ever. Close reading, a method of detailed textual analysis, serves as a foundation for developing critical thinking skills. By engaging with a text deeply, readers learn to interpret meaning, evaluate arguments, and develop their own insights. This article explores how close reading enhances critical thinking, supported by scholarly perspectives and practical applications.

#### Literature Review

Close reading is an analytical approach that requires careful, deliberate examination of a text's language, structure, and meaning (Brummett, 2018). Unlike passive reading, which focuses on comprehension, close reading encourages active engagement by questioning the



author's choices, identifying themes, and considering underlying assumptions. According to Fisher and Frey (2014), close reading involves multiple readings of a text, each with a specific focus: comprehension, analysis, and evaluation.

Critical thinking involves analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information to form reasoned judgments (Paul & Elder, 2019). Close reading directly supports these cognitive processes by encouraging analytical thinking, inference, evidence-based reasoning, and reflection (Rosenblatt, 1994; Beers & Probst, 2017; Shanahan, 2013).

#### Research Methodology

This study employs a qualitative research approach, analyzing existing literature and case studies to assess the impact of close reading on critical thinking development. The methodology includes a systematic review of academic sources, classroom observations, and an evaluation of instructional strategies designed to foster close reading skills.

#### Analysis and Results

The findings indicate that close reading enhances students' ability to engage in analytical thinking, interpret textual nuances, and apply evidence-based reasoning. Practical applications of close reading in educational settings include:

- Annotating Texts – Highlighting key phrases, noting questions, and summarizing ideas encourage engagement (Fisher & Frey, 2014).
- Socratic Seminars – Discussions based on textual evidence enhance critical thinking and collaborative learning (Adler, 1982).
- Comparative Analysis – Examining multiple texts fosters an understanding of differing perspectives and biases (Wineburg, 2001).

#### Conclusions and Recommendations

Close reading is a powerful tool that nurtures critical thinking by fostering analytical skills, interpretation, and evidence-based reasoning. As readers engage deeply with texts, they develop the ability to question, evaluate, and construct meaning—a skill set essential for academic success and informed citizenship.

It is recommended that educators incorporate structured close reading activities into curricula, utilize interactive discussions, and encourage students to critically engage with a variety of texts. Future research should explore the long-term impact of close reading on different academic disciplines and professional fields.

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## **TANQIDIY NAZAR, TAHLILIY TAFAKKUR VA INNOVATION G'OYALAR**



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