

HOW TO READ ESSAYS YOU MUST ANALYZE
Use Rouben Adalian's piece – Armenian Genocide p.96

1. Take a pencil in your hand.
2. Read the essay over once
3. Check the meaning of unfamiliar words
4. Now re-read more slowly and carefully; isolate the single most important generalization the author makes: his thesis.
5. When you think you have grasped the main point underline it and write thesis in the margin.
6. Within each structural subdivision find out what points the author is making.
7. You now have the skeleton of the author's argument and should be able to follow his reasoning.
8. Now write out , at the beginning or end of the essay, a thesis statement for the essay.
9. Finally, and very important, consider two other questions: WHY did the author write this, and for WHOM?