

THE ESSENCE OF ACTIVE READING: The Four Basic Questions a Reader Asks

Ask questions while you read – questions that you yourself must try to answer in the course of reading.

1. WHAT IS THE BOOK ABOUT AS A WHOLE?

2. WHAT IS BEING SAID IN DETAIL, AND HOW?
 - a. Discover main ideas, assertions, and arguments that constitute the author's particular message.

3. WHAT OF IT?
 - a. Why does the author think it is important to know these things?
 - b. Is it important to you to know them?

They apply to anything worth reading – a book and or an article or even an advertisement.

The person who says what he thinks but cannot express it usually does not know what he thinks.