

WRITING THROUGH THE RHETORICAL MODES

SECTION 1: A RHETORICAL MODES READER

Chapter One: The Narrative Mode

Process Analysis: Reading 3

Brogan Sullivan, “Active Reading”

Brogan Sullivan is a professor of English at the University of South Florida and writer of science fiction.

<http://writingcommons.org/open-text/information-literacy/critical-reading-practices/766-active-reading>

Questions for Reading and Discussion

- 1) What do you read for pleasure? In what ways is reading for pleasure different from the “Active Reading” that Sullivan describes? In what ways is it similar?
- 2) Recall Sullivan’s comparisons of reading to hiking through wilderness and of reading to having a conversation. How might writing an essay be described in similar terms? Which comparison do you think is more appropriate for reading? For writing? Why?

Questions for Writing and Research

- 1) Actively read an article or textbook chapter from another class. Then, without referring to the text, write a summary of what you have read. Did your active reading help you to remember the main points of the text?
- 2) Develop your answer to the first “Question for Discussion” in the previous section into an essay in which you describe the process of reading for pleasure. Alternatively, you could write an essay in which you describe the process of watching a fiction movie or playing a video game. How do you make sense of the text’s content, even when you are engaging with it for entertainment? What are the similarities between this kind of engagement and the “active” engagement that Sullivan describes?



Original content by Ashar Foley.

This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/).