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Opening Digital World's Doors to # Next Digital Generations

LESSON PLAN 1 – CRITICAL READING

TARGET

Students will develop critical reading skills by analyzing texts for bias, credibility, and deeper meaning.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- A selection of articles from different sources (newspapers, blogs, research papers, etc.)
- Highlighters and sticky notes
- Worksheets with guided reading questions
- A projector or whiteboard for discussion

OBJECTIVES

✔ Understand the difference between fact and opinion.

✔ Identify bias and reliability in various texts.

✔ Learn techniques for breaking down complex information.

✔ Develop critical thinking skills through discussion and debate.

✔ Strengthen reading comprehension and analytical writing.

FLOW OF LESSON

1. Introduction to Critical Reading (15 minutes)

- Discuss what **critical reading** means.
- Ask students:
    - Why is critical reading important?
    - How can we determine if a text is reliable?
- Show two short excerpts from different sources (one biased, one objective) and ask students to compare them.

2. Identifying Fact vs. Opinion (15 minutes)

- Explain the difference between **fact** (verifiable information) and **opinion** (personal beliefs or interpretations).
- Hand out a worksheet with mixed statements and have students label them as fact or opinion.
- Discuss answers as a class.

3. Analyzing Author's Purpose and Bias (20 minutes)

- Introduce key **bias indicators** (word choice, emotional appeal, omission of facts, tone).
- Assign a short news article and have students highlight words/phrases that indicate bias.
- Pair discussion: Compare findings and decide if the article is biased or neutral.

4. Deep Dive into a Complex Text (25 minutes)

- Distribute a longer article with both factual and opinionated elements.
- Have students annotate the text and answer guided reading questions.
- Class discussion: What makes this source credible or unreliable?

5. Reflection and Homework (10 minutes)

- Discuss:
    - What did you learn about identifying bias?
    - How will this help you in real-life reading situations?
- **Homework**: Find an online article and write a **one-page analysis** about its credibility.