PhD Reading Notes

When you read anything related to your PhD, it is important to take detailed notes that not only summarise the text, but offer your critical reflection. To be critical, you need to ask a series of standard questions of each piece of literature that you read. This template will help you do that. Use the various sections to summarise the main ideas presented and then explore the questions listed at the bottom when making your notes and offering your reflections on the text's relevance to your own research. You may not feel it is necessary to answer all of the questions. Use your intuition about what is and isn't relevant, but try to answer as many as possible to reap the biggest rewards.

Date:

URL, library location or filename:

Title and journal/book info:

Main ideas:

Notes:

Relevance to your thesis:

When filling in this template, ask yourself the following questions:

- What are the authors trying to say?
- On what basis are they forming their judgements and arguments?
- Are they convincing? Why (not)?
- What theories or perspectives have been used? What alternative ones may have been used instead?
- What perspective are they coming from? What research tradition?
- What methods do they use? Are they appropriate?
- How does this work relate to others in the field?
- (What) are others arguing about the same topic?
- How does it relate to your research question or problem?