Why am I reading this?
Read with your own agenda and not that of the authors’. Having a clear research question is helpful here.

What are the authors trying to do in writing this?
For example; report their own research, review others’ work, develop a theory, express particular values or opinions, criticise current practice, advise on what should be done in future.

What are the authors saying that is relevant to what I want to find out?
What the text is actually about. What does it report, how was any empirical work carried out, what was discovered and what have the authors concluded about it.

Where does any overlap lie between the authors’ concerns and your own interests?
Remember, the authors are unlikely to have been asking exactly the same questions as you are.

How convincing is what the authors are saying?
Evaluate the quality of the authors’ data and arguments. List the strengths and weaknesses of their argument, the underlying assumptions made, and whether these claims are consistent with other readings you have done.

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☐ Return to this for detailed analysis
☐ An important general text
☐ Of minor importance
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