

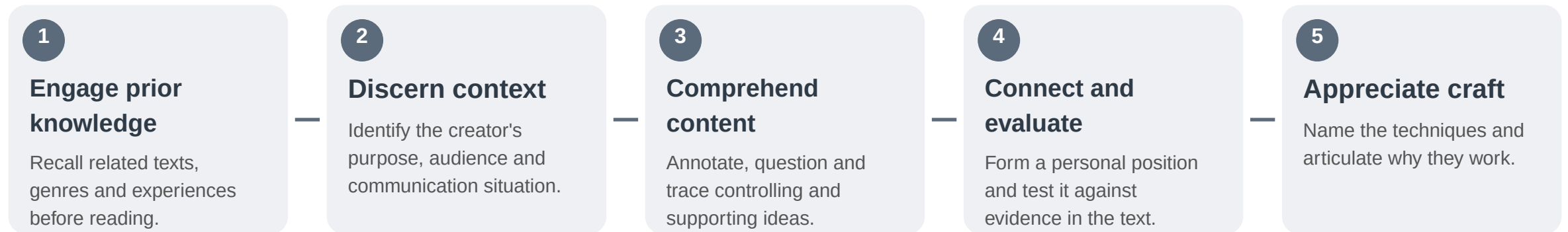
Comprehending and Responding to Texts

ELA 30-1, General Outcome 2: constructing meaning and forming personal and critical response

Learning Intentions and Success Criteria

- I can apply strategies to comprehend literature and other texts, including close reading for subtext.
- I can analyze how controlling ideas, supporting ideas and details work together in a text.
- I can explain how context, both the text creator's and my own, shapes meaning.
- I can evaluate a text's effectiveness using criteria I identify and justify.
- Success looks like: an annotated passage, a written analysis paragraph, and a spoken justification of my interpretation.

From Comprehension to Response: A Process



Two Lenses on the Same Text

Understanding content

Trace how setting, plot, character and atmosphere build theme. Analyze character motivation, tone and register, and how figurative language, symbol and imagery carry meaning. Consider how visual or aural elements in a presentation affect the message and the presenter's credibility.

Responding personally and critically

Identify personal, moral and cultural perspectives raised by the text, and notice how your own view shifts through discussion. Form a position on an issue the text raises. Weigh a character's choices against your own values and those of others in class.

Criteria for Evaluating a Text

Plausibility of setting and plot

Does the created reality hold together, even in fiction?

Consistency of character

Do behaviour and motivation stay believable and serve the theme?

Strength of controlling idea

Are supporting details adequate, relevant and effective?

Effectiveness of technique

Do rhetorical devices, irony or imagery sharpen tone and meaning?

Fit of form to purpose

Does the structure or medium suit the audience and content?

Craft and artistry

Can you name the technique and explain why it works?

Putting It Together

Comprehending and responding to a text means reading closely for content and context, then testing your interpretation against evidence, personal experience and stated criteria. Strong readers name the techniques a text creator uses, explain their effect, and take a defensible position on the text's meaning and value.

Choose one text from this course. What single detail changed your interpretation once you considered the creator's context and purpose, and why?