**A TEMPLATE FOR CRITICAL READERS**

One of the purposes of graduate school is to inculcate in students good habits of mind. Active and engaged reading – thoughtful, critical reading – is one of the most fundamental of those good habits. This form is designed to begin that process: prompting you to ask key questions, providing you the opportunity to develop your own answers. The information you gather in filling out these forms will also prove crucial as you prepare for your comprehensive exams, for it is only in asking and answering questions such as those listed below that will enable you to begin to map and explain the ever-changing contours of your chosen fields of historical study.+

Your name & today’s date

Type here

Provide a full citation formatted in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style

1. What is the author’s purpose?

Type here

2. What key questions or problems does the author raise?

Type here

3. What information, data, or evidence informs the author’s reasoning?

Type here

4. What key concepts or “mental devices” does the author use to organize his or her reasoning?

Type here

5. What key conclusions does the author come to? Based on your answers to questions 1-4, are those conclusions justified? Why?

Type here

6. What are the author’s primary assumptions? Should any of those assumptions be questioned? Why?

Type here

7. What perspectives does the author take on his or her subject of study? Should other viewpoints or perspectives be considered? Why?

Type here

8. What are some of the important implications of the author’s reasoning?

Type here