BEYOND THE ALTAR: CRITICALITY
READING QUESTIONS AND NOTES

1] Why have you chosen this particular text and author?

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2] Is this an author with whom you ordinarily or generally agree with, or disagree with?

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3] What about them or their work do you agree or disagree with?

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4] Is the language and argument in the text consistent or inconsistent with what you know of the author's position, beliefs, philosophy, ideology, politics, etc? Can you identify where in the text the author demonstrates consistency, or inconsistency?

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5] Examine the rhetoric of the text and analyze your intellectual and emotional response to the rhetoric and how it affects you. Is the author dry and factual, or hyperbolic? Are there discrepancies or dogwhistles? Is their language clear or is it convoluted? What are some shifts in your own perception of the text that you noticed while doing this examination?

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6] Read with skepticism to formulate questions around the reading, as opposed to taking it at face value. What questions have you identified after reading this way?

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7] Read again to identify any answers to your questions. Were you able to find any? Does the author have evidence to substantiate their claims?

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8] How did the author's rhetoric and tone impact your ability to discern the author's influence versus your own thoughts and ideas? Were you easily persuaded, or were you skeptical?

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9] Were there instances in which you generally agreed or disagreed with the author, but found at times that you either disagreed or agreed with them? How did this complicate your response to what you were reading?

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10] After critically reading the text, how has your relationship to the author or the topic changed? Has it turned you off of the author or the subject completely, or brought you closer to them?

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11] Did this inspire further curiosity to seek other sources on the topic of the reading, or other works by the author?

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12] Any further thoughts and reflections?

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