

Name:
Date:
Book:

Critical Reading Handout

The subject of the biography:

Why are they important:

When did they live and under what context:

What do you know about the author?

What is their authority?

In what context was the biography produced?

What is the relationship between author and subject?

As best you can tell what was the author's motivation?

How is the biography organized?

Is there anything unusual about the biography or its structure?

Where does the author focus attention?

What themes stand out?

What was/is the critical reaction to the biography? Are there any themes that emerge in the reviews or critiques of the biography? What are they?

What have you, as a potential biographer, learned about the craft of biography from this text?

Were there any passages in the book that you found particularly powerful or problematic? What were they and why?

Can you point to a particular sentence that you really liked? What did you like about it? How can you learn from it?