

## Critical Discourse Analysis – Thinking about the big story.

### Key Questions

- 1) Where does this material come from?
- 2) Who created this material?
- 3) Why did they create this material?
- 4) What hashtags would you use to tag this material? (5-10 words)
- 5) How is this material structured?
- 6) What are the three most important sentences in this material / scenes in this film? Why are they important?
- 7) How many references are there to x? y? Select key words for students to look for.
- 8) What words are next to Christianity? Islam? What is this telling us?
- 9) Who is the 'we' in this material? Who is the 'they'?
- 10) What metaphors has the author used? Why?
- 11) What images are used? What do they tell us?
- 12) How is humour used?
- 13) How are 'experts' and 'data' used? Are there any references?

### Discourse analysis:

Critical Discourse Analysis is a technique used to approach any kind of discourse from written texts including Holy Scriptures, newspapers, novels, and twitter feeds to visual media including TV, film, art work, and cartoons. It helps the reader to identify where the power is in a source and to analyse the source in a wider context. It helps the reader to work out what is really being said.

### Ideas for using this technique:

- Use to analyse newspaper articles about religion (see resource on CDA and the newspapers).
- Use to analyse a documentary or TV program about religion.
- Build in this technique as a 'go to' for any engagement with an outside source – pupils could have these questions stuck inside their folder or book. The building up of questions makes this technique ideal for differentiation across and between year groups.

### Going further?

- Let students create their own questions.
- Encourage students to present their findings visually – e.g. infogram (<http://www.creativebloq.com/graphic-design-tips/information-graphics-1232836>)
- Use wordle to support numerical analysis (<http://www.wordle.net/>).