Examples of close reading:

While an initial reading of the poem *Phenomenal Woman* appears to declare that a woman’s appeal doesn’t have to be focused on her looks or physicality, a deeper and closer reading reveals that the poem actually praises a woman’s physical assets, but only as they are used to highlight her inner qualities as a person instead of her shallow alignment with ideas of physical appeal. The first line of the poem states that “pretty women wonder where my secret lies,” giving the impression that the subject of the poem is a woman who catches frequent attention, to the point that pretty women (inferably prettier than the subject) are confused. While it is true that whenever the subject delves into describing her appeal, she refers to different parts of her body, each reference to a body part doesn’t praise its visual appeal, but the appealing way the subject uses each part. For example, the subject’s secret lies not in the thinness of her waist, but the “swing in [her] waist.” Her beauty is not in how beautiful her eyes appear, but the fact that they are full of fire, a common literary reference to spunk or feistiness in a woman. Therefore, it is apparent that Maya Angelou’s poem is one that still praises the physicality of a woman, but places the emphasis on how that physicality reflects the spirit of the woman, the true source of her phenomenology.

The authors ascertain that physicians with personal breastfeeding experience are more likely to recommend nursing to one year. However, given that 5% of residents answered correctly regarding recognizing that breastfed babies grow at slower rates after 4 months, I concede that personal experience does not make a significant difference. Furthermore, 10% difference between residents with breastfeeding knowledge and those without is hardly a significant variation. Secondly, looking at Table 1: Demographics of Survey Respondents we see that 83% of respondent’s spouses did not breastfeed their child. I question why this number is so high, given that these are Family medicine and Pediatric residents, who are certainly aware of the AAP recommendation regarding breastfeeding. I speculate that there could be several influencing variables, including age of resident respondents. Furthermore, the spouses might have high profile jobs or residencies themselves, which may make it a challenge to breastfeed.