

CRITICAL THINKING

- Allows you to form your own opinions and engage with material beyond a superficial level. Essential to developing a good essay and having constructive classroom discussions.
- Allows you to generate arguments and support them.
- Helps you to evaluate your own work, which in turn leads to better grades.



“Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and/or evaluating information gathered from, or generated by, observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication, as a guide to belief and action.”

– criticalthinking.org

HOW TO THINK CRITICALLY*

1. Ask basic questions.

What do you already know? How do you know that? What are you trying to prove, disprove, demonstrate, critique?

2. Question basic assumptions.

Critically evaluate your beliefs about what’s prudent, appropriate, or possible.

3. Be aware of your mental processes.

Be aware of personal bias and how that influences seemingly “objective” decisions and solutions.

4. Try reversing things.

Even if it turns out that the reverse isn’t true, considering it can set you on the path to finding a solution.

5. Evaluate the evidence.

Who gathered this evidence? How did they gather it? Why? Is there any conflict of interest?

6. Remember to think for yourself.

Don’t get so lost in other people’s thoughts and ideas that you forget to have your own thoughts.

*Adapted from collegeinfo geek.com/improve-critical-thinking-skills/