

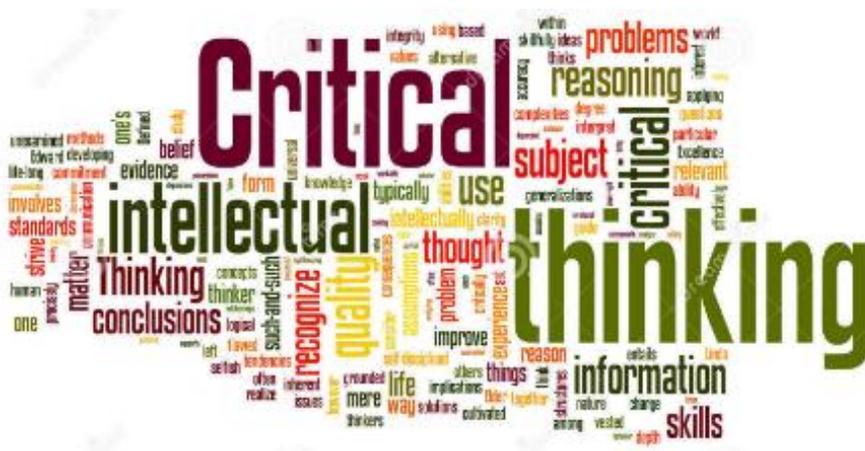
Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is a type of clear, reasoned thinking involving objectively analyzing an issue to form an understanding in order to make clear judgements. Critical thinking plays an important role in effective problem-solving in the classroom and out of the classroom.

How can you become a critical thinker in your classes?

- Review your material and write down open-ended questions that will help you think of the material in a new way. For example, “why would you use X formula instead of Y to solve this problem?”; “who is the intended audience for what I’m reading?”; “why is X topic important?”
- Gather and assess relevant information regarding the topic. Read all assigned readings, complete your homework (even if it is optional), attend lectures and discussions, ask professors for help, and do your own outside research! Then take time to summarize what you have learned orally either to yourself or to someone else. Have them ask you open-ended questions about the material to help you think about the material in a fresh way.
- Think about approaching the material in a new way. Consider using online resources such as Chegg or Khan Academy and observe how the lecturer approaches the problem. They may teach the material in a way that works better for you.
- Try to make connections. When studying try connecting lecture/reading topics with examples and connect those examples with previously discussed material from other lectures/readings.

Common Critical Thinking Skills



- Analyzing
- Evaluating
- Logic Reasoning
- Predicting
- Transforming Knowledge
- Interpreting
- Making Inferences
- Transforming Knowledge
- Explaining

Try the activity on the next page for more practice!

Try to answer these questions using one of your reading assignments!

1. Who is the author of the reading?
2. Who is their intended audience and why are they addressing this audience?
3. Did they provide only factual information or were opinions provided?
4. What did those opinions reveal about the authors viewpoints?
5. Compare and contrast their points with other people's findings/opinions.
6. Why are they writing/speaking about this information?
7. What are your responses to this information?
8. Was this written/spoken about with emotion?
9. What were those emotions?
10. Why are those emotions significant to the piece as a whole?

On your next assignment try
creating similar questions and then
answering them while you read!