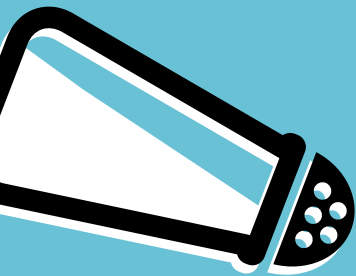


Critical Thinking

TOP TIPS...



Critical Thinking

Step 1 Question things

- ◆ Don't be afraid to challenge the arguments of an author.
- ◆ Consider who is presenting a piece of information. Could they have an agenda, or a particular bias?
- ◆ Put together a series of challenging questions that you can use in any situation, to help you adopt a more critical mindset.

Step 2 Use what you already know

- ◆ Does this new information align with, or contradict your existing understanding of the subject?
- ◆ Are you aware of any studies or theories that might call this new information into question?
- ◆ Have you carried out any research of your own that could be taken into account?

Step 3 Analyse the argument itself

- ◆ Identify the conclusion and the reasons that support this.
- ◆ Do you agree with the reasons that form the basis of the argument? What evidence is there to support them?
- ◆ Check the argument is logical. Does one reason lead to the next, and then to the conclusion? Are there any missing steps?

Step 4 Be critical of your own work!

- ◆ Leave a finished essay for a couple of days if you can, then read it through again to get a different perspective.
- ◆ Make sure that all reasoning is supported by references to the literature.
- ◆ Check that your arguments are logical.