

Critical Thinking Essay

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Interpretation, finding all the facts and points of view and making sense of things. Analysis, is it true? Evaluation, to assess the credibility of statements or other representations. Inference, what else could follow? Explanation, presenting the results of your reasoning through evidence. Self regulation, being open minded and being able to step back as an uninterested observer and be mindful to the facts and evidence. These are the 6 steps to critical thinking.

Interpretation. I learned to ask the questions needed to be able to clarify the meanings of certain vague and ambiguous statements. I learned to comprehend and express the meaning or significance of a wide variety of experiences, situations, data, events, beliefs, rules, procedures, or criteria.

Analysis. I learned to find the truth of things through research and evidence, and to identify the intended and actual inferential relationships among statements, questions, concepts, descriptions, or other forms of representation intended to express belief, experiences, reasons, information, or opinions.

Evaluation. I learned to search for credibility in other's statements through research, their reputation, through expert opinions or statements, and through any inconsistencies I can find.

Inference. I learned to draw reasonable conclusions from relevant information and deduce the consequences, and to predict what will happen next based what is known.

Explanation. I learned to present the results of my reasoning, to give someone a full look at the big picture, both to state and to justify the reasoning in terms of the evidential considerations that my results were based on.

Self regulation. I learned to be open minded to other opinions, to examine my views on a controversial issue with sensitivity to the possible influences of my personal biases or self-interest, and to understand what the person is really saying without introducing my own ideas.

I also learned to tell between someone who is consistent and inconsistent, to tell bullshitters from non-bullshitters. I learned how to ask questions when I need more information and to specify vague and ambiguous words. I learned about the confirmation bias, how we desperately try to prove we are right just because we believe we are right. I learned to put myself in other's shoes and know how they feel and whether my words or actions were appropriate to the situation.

This course teaches amazing skills and concepts that I think not just every youth, but everyone should know. This stuff seems so obvious now that I learned it and I see the world in a completely new way. This course has greatly increased my own confidence and abilities to reason and find the truth of things. I also learned how to be a better listener and feel more confident having conversations with people and not being awkward.