

Critical Thinking Guide

ABSTRACT

This guide was developed using internationally recognized university critical thinking resources and academic guides. It aims to support students in developing analytical reasoning, evidence-based decision-making, academic literacy, and reflective learning skills

Critical Thinking Guide

Give a man a fish and
you feed him for a day



Teach a man to fish and
you feed him for a lifetime



What is Critical Thinking?

Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information gathered from observation, experience, reflection, reasoning, or communication.

Critical thinking involves questioning assumptions, evaluating evidence, and considering alternative perspectives before reaching conclusions.

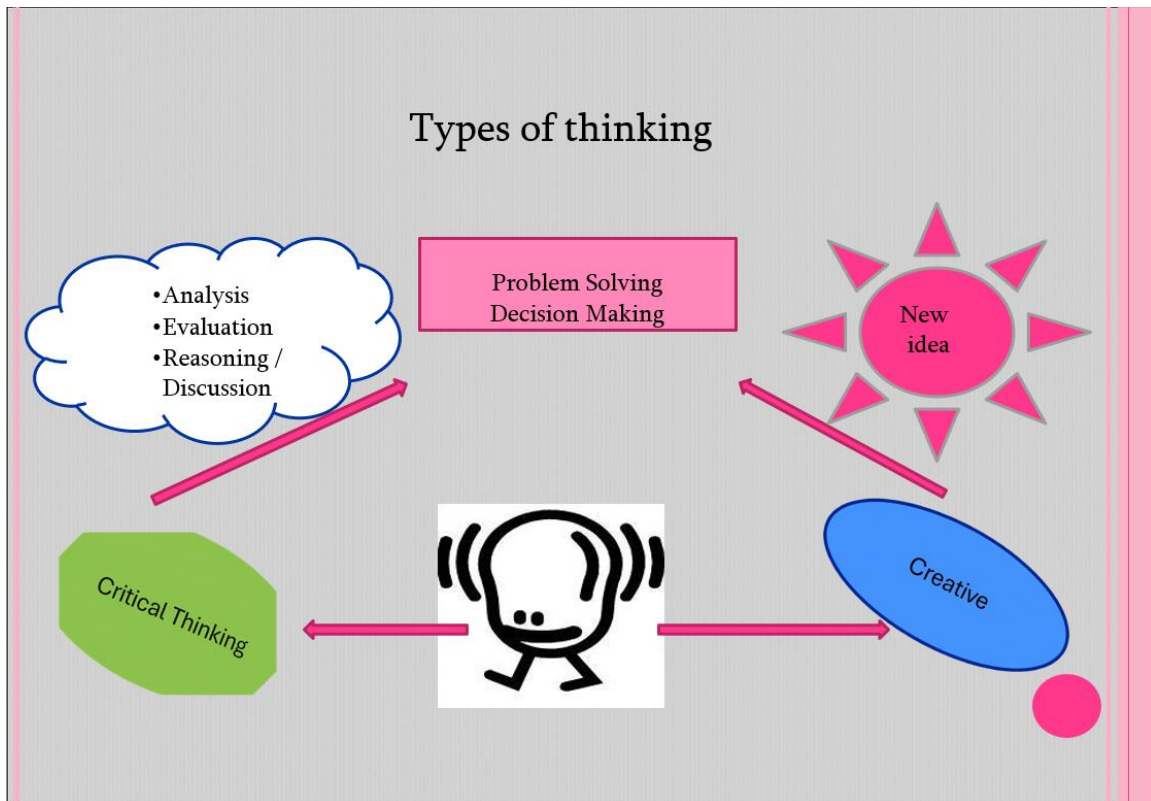
Why is Critical Thinking Important?

Critical thinking helps students:

- evaluate information critically;
- identify misinformation and bias;
- solve problems effectively;



- make evidence-based decisions;
- strengthen academic writing and research skills;
- engage in independent and reflective learning.



Core Critical Thinking Skills

The major elements of critical thinking include:

- Analysis – examining information carefully;
- Evaluation – assessing credibility and evidence;
- Interpretation – understanding meaning;
- Inference – drawing logical conclusions;
- Reflection – reviewing one’s own assumptions and reasoning.

Evaluating Sources and Information

Students should critically evaluate all sources before using them in assignments or research.

Key questions include:

- Who is the author?
- Is the information evidence-based?
- Is the source reliable and up to date?
- Is there possible bias?
- Does the source answer the research question?

Critical Thinking and Artificial Intelligence

Artificial intelligence tools can support learning and research; however, students should critically evaluate AI-generated information.

Students should:

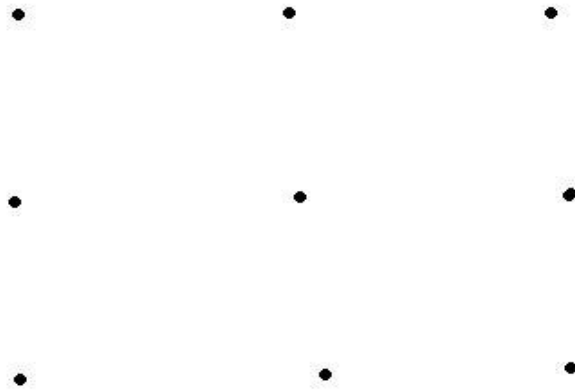
- verify AI-generated content using academic sources;
- avoid plagiarism;
- identify inaccuracies or bias;
- apply independent reasoning;
- use AI ethically and responsibly.

Practical Techniques for Developing Critical Thinking

Common methods used to strengthen critical thinking include:

- SWOT analysis;
- debates and discussions;
- compare-and-contrast activities;
- reflective journals;
- case study analysis;
- the “5 Whys” technique;
- problem-solving exercises.

Draw 4 lines without lifting your hand, so that each line passes through all the given dots.



Characteristics of a Critical Thinker

A critical thinker is typically:

- open-minded;
- analytical;
- reflective;
- curious;
- evidence-oriented;
- ethical;
- logical in reasoning.

References

- Paul, R., & Elder, L. The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking Concepts and Tools.
- Foundation for Critical Thinking. Aspiring Thinker's Guide.
- The Open University. Thinking Critically Guide.
- Western Sydney University. Critical Thinking Guide.
- Facione, P. A. Critical Thinking: A Statement of Expert Consensus.