

Questions to Guide Your Critical Thinking

Critical thought doesn't have to be complicated! Below are the key stages of critical thinking, along with guiding questions to help you form responses that are nuanced, accurate, and well-researched. Whether you're reading a news article, writing an essay, or engaging in a friendly debate, these questions will help you reach confident and open-minded conclusions about anything.

Is Critical Thinking Just for School?

Absolutely not! You can use critical thought in all aspects of life, like:

- **Deciding which career path** to choose
- **Evaluating news sources** and social media posts
- **Building confidence** in your own opinion

Interpretation

Interpretation is summarizing and understanding information. To gain a well-rounded grasp on a topic, ask yourself:

- What's the main idea?
- Can I summarize this information in a sentence?
- Is there something else going on beneath the surface?

Analysis

Analysis means examining ideas, arguments, and evidence. Use these questions to explore different perspectives:

- What are the main arguments and counterarguments?
- Are there facts to support these claims?
- Are there any hidden biases or assumptions?

Evaluation

Evaluation refers to the credibility and strength of an argument. To ensure your sources are reliable, ask:

- Is this source credible?
- Does this reasoning make sense?
- Who is the author?

Inference

Inference is making a hypothesis based on the given information. Before making a claim, consider:

- What conclusions can I draw from my research?
- What does all this information point to?
- Is my conclusion based on fact or opinion?

Explanation

Explanation means clearly explaining your argument to others. To make sure your point is clear and fully supported, ask yourself:

- What is my thesis statement?
- Can I support my statement with evidence?
- Is my reasoning clear to understand?

Self-Regulation

Self-regulation is continuing to reflect and improve on your reasoning skills. Once your research is complete, reconsider your thinking by asking:

- Have I considered all sides fairly?
- Is there a perspective I'm missing?
- How can I learn from this process?



Write Your Own Questions

What other questions could help you think more critically? Write your ideas down below and use them the next time you're researching, writing, or analyzing!

Remember—anyone can get in the habit of thinking critically! Just like any other skill, the more you practice, the easier it becomes. Over time, critical thinking can become second nature, helping you confidently respond to information and make informed decisions.

