

The Ultimate Cheatsheet for Critical Thinking

Want to exercise critical thinking skills? Ask these questions whenever you discover or discuss new information. These are broad and versatile questions that have limitless applications!



Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... benefits from this? ... is this harmful to? ... makes decisions about this? ... is most directly affected? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... have you also heard discuss this? ... would be the best person to consult? ... will be the key people in this? ... deserves recognition for this?
What	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... are the strengths/weaknesses? ... is another perspective? ... is another alternative? ... would be a counter-argument? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... is the best/worst case scenario? ... is most/least important? ... can we do to make a positive change? ... is getting in the way of our action?
Where	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... would we see this in the real world? ... are there similar concepts/situations? ... is there the most need for this? ... in the world would this be a problem? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... can we get more information? ... do we go for help with this? ... will this idea take us? ... are the areas for improvement?
When	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... is this acceptable/unacceptable? ... would this benefit our society? ... would this cause a problem? ... is the best time to take action? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... will we know we've succeeded? ... has this played a part in our history? ... can we expect this to change? ... should we ask for help with this?
Why	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... is this a problem/challenge? ... is it relevant to me/others? ... is this the best/worst scenario? ... are people influenced by this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... should people know about this? ... has it been this way for so long? ... have we allowed this to happen? ... is there a need for this today?
How	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... is this similar to _____? ... does this disrupt things? ... do we know the truth about this? ... will we approach this safely? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ... does this benefit us/others? ... does this harm us/others? ... do we see this in the future? ... can we change this for our good?

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

<p>1 Knowledge</p> <p>Identification and recall of information</p>	define fill in the blank list identify	label locate match memorize	name recall spell	state tell underline
<p>2 Comprehension</p> <p>Organization and selection of facts and ideas</p>	convert describe explain	interpret paraphrase put in order	restate retell in your own words rewrite	summarize trace translate
<p>3 Application</p> <p>Use of facts, rules, and principles</p>	apply compute conclude construct	demonstrate determine draw find out	give an example illustrate make operate	show solve state a rule or principle use
<p>4 Analysis</p> <p>Separating a whole into component parts</p>	analyze categorize classify compare	contrast debate deduct determine the factors	diagram differentiate dissect distinguish	examine infer specify
<p>5 Synthesis</p> <p>Combining ideas to form a new whole</p>	change combine compose construct create design	find an unusual way formulate generate invent originate plan	predict pretend produce rearrange reconstruct reorganize	revise suggest suppose visualize write
<p>6 Evaluation</p> <p>Developing opinions, judgements, or decisions</p>	appraise choose compare conclude	decide defend evaluate give your opinion	judge justify prioritize rank	rate select support value

Who _____ ?
 What _____ ?
 Where _____ ?
 When _____ ?

How _____ ?
 Describe _____ ?
 What is _____ ?

Re-tell _____ in your own words.
 What is the main idea of _____ ?

What differences exist between _____ ?
 Can you write a brief outline?

How is _____ an example of _____ ?
 How is _____ related to _____ ?
 Why is _____ significant?

Do you know of another instance where _____ ?
 Could this have happened in _____ ?

What are the parts or features of _____ ?
 Classify _____ according to _____ .
 Outline/diagram/web/map _____ .

How does _____ compare/contrast with _____ ?
 What evidence can you present for _____ ?

What would you predict/infer from _____ ?
 What ideas can you add to _____ ?
 How would you create/design a new _____ ?

What solutions would you suggest for _____ ?
 What might happen if you combined _____ with _____ ?

Do you agree that _____ ? Explain.
 What do you think about _____ ?
 What is most important?

Prioritize _____ according to _____ ?
 How would you decide about _____ ?
 What criteria would you use to assess _____ ?