



Checklist for Improving Critical Thinking Skills

When you think critically, you are engaged in active thinking. You ask questions about the material. You evaluate the material. You categorize the material. You look for relationships between the ideas and concepts.

Do you use these critical thinking skills?

- Identify problems and solutions
- Interpret according to a framework or model
- Relate theory to practice
- Support your claim and use evidence
- Link ideas
- Compare and contrast
- Ask questions

In order to read critically, ask yourself:

- What are the main points?
- How can I put this into my own words?
- What other examples can I provide?
- Is a bias apparent?
- Could a different conclusion be drawn?
- Are the ideas supported by evidence?
- Do I agree or disagree with the author?

In summary, when you think critically, you differentiate between fact and opinion, recognize and evaluate bias and rhetoric, determine cause and effect relationships, determine the accuracy and completeness of information, compare and contrast information, develop inferential skills, and make decisions.
