CRITICAL THINKING

➢ What is it? Simply, it means asking and answering questions – especially what, why, how, and what if?

➢ Why bother? To develop personal passion and seek rationale for learning.

➢ How to develop skills? Seek alternative viewpoints and challenge personal assumptions.
Do you think?

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-85j7Nr9i4&feature=related
# Attitudes of a college-level critical thinker

## Attitude

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<th>Attitude</th>
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<tr>
<td>Truth-seeking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open-minded</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Systematic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-confident</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inquisitive</td>
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<td>Mature</td>
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## Sample statement

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<tr>
<td>“Let’s follow this idea and see where it leads.”</td>
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<td>“I have a point of view on this subject, and I’m anxious to hear yours as well.”</td>
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<td>“Taking a stand on the issue commits me to take some action.”</td>
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<td>“The speaker made some interesting points, and I’d like to hear some more evidence to support each one.”</td>
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<td>“After reading the book for the first time, I was confused. I’ll be able to understand it after studying the book some more.”</td>
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<td>“When I first saw that painting, I wanted to know what was going on in the artist’s life when she painted it.”</td>
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<td>“I’ll wait until I gather more facts before reaching a conclusion on this issue.”</td>
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STAGE THEORY IN CRITICAL THINKING DEVELOPMENT

Unreflective Thinker (unaware of problems in thinking)

Challenged Thinker (becoming aware of problems in thinking)

Beginning Thinker (trying to improve)

The Practicing Thinker (practicing to develop)

Advanced Thinker

Accomplished Thinker (skilled and insightful)
CRITICAL READING

- What is it? Analyzing a piece of writing in fine detail.
- Why bother? It is the building block for larger analysis
- How to develop skills? Practice, practice, practice, read, read, read!
Reading to see what a text says may suffice when the goal is to learn specific information or to understand someone else's ideas. But we usually read with other purposes. Students need to solve problems and make meaningful connections.
Critical reading is a technique for discovering information and ideas within a text. Critical thinking is a technique for evaluating information and ideas, for deciding what to accept and believe.

Critical reading refers to a careful, active, reflective, analytic reading. In actual practice, critical reading and critical thinking work together. Critical thinking allows us to monitor our understanding as we read.
SQ3R Reading Strategy

SQ3R

Survey

Question

Read

Recite

Review/Reflect

Strategy

Survey your reading assignment by skimming and observing titles, charts, table, bold words, etc.

Develop Questions about each section of the reading. This will help you identify what information you want to “look for” while reading.

Read the assignment as thoroughly as possible. Read one section at a time and don’t get too bogged down with details. Look for main ideas and supporting details.

Recite and recall the information by paraphrasing and summarizing.

Review and reflect over time.
Bloom’s Taxonomy

**Knowledge**
- Memorizing verbatim information. Being able to remember, but not necessarily fully understanding the material.

**Comprehension**
- Using information to solve problems; transferring abstract or theoretical ideas to practical situations. Identifying connections and relationships and how they apply.

**Application**
- Identifying components; determining arrangement, logic, and semantics.

**Analysis**
- Making decisions and supporting views; requires understanding of values.

**Synthesis**
- Combining information to form a unique product; requires creativity and originality.

**Evaluation**
- Restating in your own words; paraphrasing, summarizing, translating.

This pyramid depicts the different levels of thinking we use when learning. Notice how each level builds on the foundation that precedes it. It is required that we learn the lower levels before we can effectively use the skills above.
A test to repeat in every subject
Every academic field has its own logic or system of meanings.
To learn the discipline is to learn within the system.

- Can I explain the underlying system of ideas that define this subject? (like writing the encyclopedia entry for it, maybe an abstract)
- Can I explain its most basic ideas to someone who doesn’t understand it?
- Could I write a glossary of its most basic vocabulary?
- Do I know what the basic logic or key goal of the subject?
- Can I compare and contrast this subject with others I have learned?
- To what extent can I relate this subject to significant world issues?