



## Critical Thinking Tools

Critical thinking skills are some of the most important you'll need in life, but they're sometimes the hardest to come by. We've gathered some helps to get you on your way!

### *Critical Thinking Tools*

Here are some websites to help you practice critical thinking skills.

How to Think Critically	<a href="#">From Roger Darlington</a> , smart, comprehensive listing of logical fallacies to watch out for, especially with regard to news and current events
Udemy	<a href="#">How to Think Critically</a> gives you a list of the attributes of a good critical thinker and how to learn to think for yourself
Lifehacker	<a href="#">Train Your Mind to Think Critically and Form Your Own Opinions</a>
The Critical Thinking Community	<a href="#">CTC</a> is heavy-duty analysis of what it takes to develop critical thinking capacity

### *4 Steps to Critical Reading*

Practicing critical reading is key to critical thinking. Use these four steps as a guide to get you started! Then use our Critical Thinking Response sheet as you read.

- 1) **Analyze the source** -- where is your information coming from? A biased source? How can you tell?
- 2) **Analyze the writer's or speaker's argument** -- is there bias? How can you tell? are you being manipulated?
- 3) **Question your own assumptions** -- what are *your* biases?
- 4) **Keep an open mind** -- can you see and understand both sides of an argument?

## Critical Thinking Response Sheet

To practice critical reading, use this response sheet. Respond to each question in 5-6 sentences.

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Summary of reading: This might be the plot summary of a book or part of a book. It could also outline an issue, a point of view, the controversy among points of view, a new discovery, or a set of questions and/or thoughts posed by the author of your reading.

What did you find interesting about the reading? If you did not find anything interesting, please explain why.

What did you relate to? What, if anything, did you not relate to?

What new thoughts or questions do you now have as a result of this reading?

What are some of your favorite quotes? Perhaps you appreciate a sentence or paragraph because of the thought involved, the writing style, a view you disagree with, etc. Locate some moments of engagement in the text and provide a brief commentary.

Would you recommend this reading to someone? Why or why not? Please explain.

What kinds of problems, if any, did you have with the reading? (You can answer in less than 5 sentences for this one.)

List new vocabulary words here: