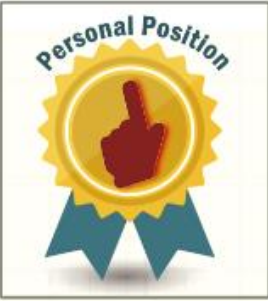



# Guide to Evaluating Critical Thinking

From: <http://www.criticalthinkingandreasoning.org/>

	Steps to Skillful Reasoning	Evidence
	<p>Briefly summarize the issue clearly and objectively. Describe the main ideas or aspects of the issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Without bias, describe the main ideas and events related to the issue.</li> <li>What definitions help inform the issue?</li> </ul> <p>What factors influence this issue?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Description – Main ideas, events</li> <li>Description – Key Definitions</li> <li>Description - Influences</li> </ul>
 	<p>Positions</p> <p>Objectively examine multiple positions, perspectives and beliefs. Include positions held by professionals and experts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is this issue understood by different people?</li> <li>What are common assumptions and beliefs about the issue?</li> <li>What do experts say about the issue?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positions – What are common positions</li> <li>Positions – What do experts and professionals say?</li> <li>Positions - Student position as informed by relevant experiences</li> </ul>
	<p>Evaluating Evidence</p> <p>Evaluate evidence to identify strengths and weaknesses in arguments and counter-arguments including bias, authority, validity and strength. Are these sources and evidence reliable and credible? Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How reliable and credible are the various arguments or positions presented? What information does or</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence – Evaluate credibility of arguments</li> <li>Evidence – Evaluate relevance of information</li> <li>Evidence – Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the arguments</li> </ul>

	does not stand up to scrutiny?	
	<p>Personal Position</p> <p>Connect facts, assumptions, evidence and perspectives to draw conclusions and develop arguments. Recognize and respond to counterarguments and weaknesses about the position you support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What perspectives do you agree with and why?</li> <li>• Are you ready to formulate a position? If so, what is your position on the issue?</li> <li>• What evidence supports this position?</li> <li>• What arguments challenge your position?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Position – Connects facts, evidence</li> <li>• Student Position – Presents own position</li> <li>• Student Position – Withholds judgement</li> <li>• Student Position – Supports position and responds to counterarguments</li> <li>• Student Position – Identifies potential implications</li> </ul>
	<p>Further Questions</p> <p>What further questions, sources or information would guide next steps in exploring this issue?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What resources or ideas might provide more insight into this issue?</li> <li>• What further questions should be asked?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Questions – What are future implications</li> <li>• Further Questions – What additional insights or questions should be considered?</li> </ul>

Attribution: Warn, M., Jackson, R., Fassnacht, M. & Fink, S. (2016). *Critical Thinking: A Guide to Skillful Reasoning*. Retrieved from: <http://www.criticalthinkingandreasoning.org/>  
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