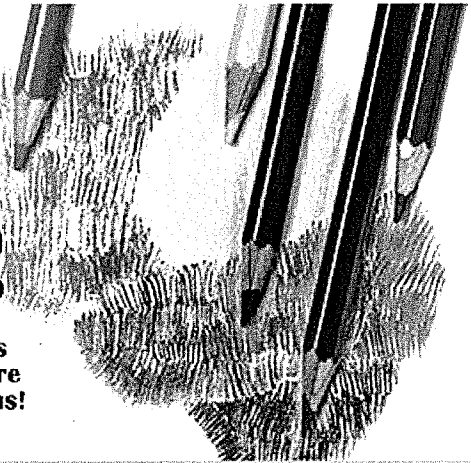


The Ultimate Cheatsheet for Critical Thinking



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

- ... benefits from this?
- ... is this harmful to?
- ... makes decisions about this?
- ... is most directly affected?
- ... 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

- ... are the strengths/weaknesses?
- ... is another perspective?
- ... is another alternative?
- ... would be a counter-argument?
- ... 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

- ... 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?
- ... can we get more information?
- ... do we go for help with this?
- ... will this idea take us?
- ... are the areas for improvement?

When

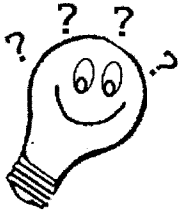
- ... is this acceptable/unacceptable?
- ... would this benefit our society?
- ... would this cause a problem?
- ... is the best time to take action?
- ... will we know we've succeeded?
- ... has this played a part in our history?
- ... can we expect this to change?
- ... should we ask for help with this?

Why

- ... is this a problem/challenge?
- ... is it relevant to me/others?
- ... is this the best/worst scenario?
- ... are people influenced by this?
- ... 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

- ... is this similar to _____?
- ... does this disrupt things?
- ... do we know the truth about this?
- ... will we approach this safely?
- ... does this benefit us/others?
- ... does this harm us/others?
- ... do we see this in the future?
- ... can we change this for our good?



Questions to Focus on Critical Literacy Higher Level Thinking

Name _____

These questions can be applied to a variety of learning situations. Keep this list handy in order to be able to stimulate higher level thinking and critical literacy with your students.

1. What could have happened if.....
2. What theme do you notice emerging?
3. How is this similar to.....
4. Compare this with something you've experienced that is similar.
5. What other outcomes could have happened?
6. How is this similar to.....
7. Why did the author makehappen?
8. What questions would you pose to the author?
9. What was the point of.....
10. What would you have done differently? Why?
11. How else could this story have ended?
12. What would your position have been with this problem?
13. How would you have responded to.....
14. How would you have handled
15. What change you would recommend? Why?
16. How would you feel if.....
17. Defend the author's position on.....
18. Discuss the importance of part when.....
19. What were the 3 most important events? Defend your answer.
20. Predict what could take place in a sequel.
21. What was the turning point? What makes you think this?
22. Compare a character with you.
23. What is the purpose? Why?
24. How could you improve.....
25. What needs to be improved.....
26. How could it have been done differently?
27. How could this change to meet the needs of a different audience?
28. What do you wonder about?
29. How has this influenced you?
30. What advice do you have for the author?
31. What point of view did the author take? Could there be different point of views?
What would they be?
32. What are the author's values, beliefs and attitudes? How do you know?
33. What is the audience being targeted? How do you know?
34. Could some people interpret this differently? How?
35. How do the images influence your thinking?
36. Are the images needed? Why or why not?