

Critical Thinking Summary

Video transcript

00:00 [University expectations]

[Description: A hand draws three rectangular boxes with the text: Facts, data and concepts. Above all three boxes is written: Analysis/Synthesis, above this is written: Critical Thinking.]

As you start your studies. You'll probably discover that you're expected to become a more independent and analytical thinker.

This means that apart from learning facts and key concepts, you'll need to demonstrate higher level thinking skills such as critical analysis and synthesis.

00:16 [Applying your critical thinking skills]

[Description: A hand draws three figures: an onlooker, a respectable scholar, and another respectable scholar, with speech bubbles saying 'argument', 'counter argument' and 'critique'.]

Making use of these and other thinking skills will allow you to join and contribute to the academic debates taking place in your field. Through your lectures, tutorials, and assignments, you'll be gradually encouraged to unpack, test, and challenge ideas, concepts, and theories in your subject. In other words, you'll be applying your critical thinking skills in all aspects of your university work.

00:39 [What will critical thinking achieve?]

[Description: A hand draws a checklist titled 'Things to do' with the items listed below: Read widely, Ask 'Why?', Take your time, Reflect on how you think.]

Good critical thinking will enable you, for example, to evaluate different sources of information, assess people's reasoning, and come to informed conclusions. It will help you guard against taking knowledge and information at face value.

To be successful in your studies. You may therefore need to learn how to develop a critical mind. Now, how confident do you feel about your own critical thinking ability?

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