



Critical Thinking Strategies

Critical Thinking is "the careful, deliberate determination of whether we should accept, reject, or suspend judgment about a claim, and the degree of confidence with which we accept or reject it."

From Critical Thinking by Moore and Parker.

Strategies for Critical Reading

Ask yourself the following questions:

- What is the issue?"
- What conclusion does the author reach about the issue?"
- What are the author's reasons for believing as he does?"
 - Be alert to bad reasoning (i.e. pity, fear, misuse of statistics etc.) that can fool you.
- Has the author used facts or opinions?
 - Facts can be proven.
 - Opinions cannot be proven and may or may not be based on sound reasoning.
- Has the author used neutral words or emotional words?
 - Critical readers look beyond the language to see if the reasons are clear.

Characteristics of Critical Thinkers

- They are honest with themselves
- They resist manipulation
- They overcome confusion
- They ask questions
- They base judgments on evidence
- They look for connections between subjects
- They are intellectually independent