

Important Dispositions for Critical Thinkers

- Seek a clear statement of the thesis or question.
- Seek reasons.
- Try to be well informed.
- Use credible sources and mention them.
- Take into account the total situation.
- Try to remain relevant to the main point.
- Keep in mind the original or basic concern.
- Look for alternatives.
- Be open-minded:
 - ✓ Consider other points of view other than one's own ("dialogical thinking").
 - ✓ Reason from premises with which one disagrees—without letting the disagreement interfere with one's own reasoning ("suppositional thinking").
 - ✓ Withhold judgment when the evidence and reasons are insufficient.
- Take a position (and change a position) when the evidence and reasons are sufficient to do so.
- Seek as much precision as the subject permits.
- Deal in an orderly manner with the parts of a complex whole.
- Be sensitive to the feelings, levels of knowledge, and degree of sophistication of others.
- Use one's critical thinking abilities.