

Critical Thinking

1. Prewriting Questions to ask yourself

Before writing your paper, think about the issue	What is the purpose of my paper?
you want to address. Be sure that the paper carries	What is the argument of my paper?
a strong point and purpose, particularly one that	What is the problem that is posed?
your reader will easily understand	What question or issue am I trying to address?
Now that you have a topic and an issue, consider	What is my point of view?
your available resources. In addition to your own	What are some of my ideas that reach beyond the
thinking, there are several articles and other	actual plot of the story or issue?
sources of information to help you analyze your	What is the purpose of my writing about this issue?
ideas. Consider specific examples and events that	Why is it important?
help to illustrate your point.	

2. Writing Questions to ask yourself

Choose specific examples, quotes, or statistics	Why is this statement important?
from the your resources. Remember to incorporate	What is it saying about my subject matter?
your own thinking and conclusion to stand as the	Why did I include it in my paper?
main argument behind your writing.	How does it support my argument?
NEVER assume that your cleverly chosen	How is this example/source significant to my paper?
examples/sources will speak for themselves. ALL	Can I expand on it or explain it in more depth?
examples need your introduction and follow-up	Do ALL my sources have well-developed
commentary.	commentary?
	Do I introduce ALL my sources so my reader will
	know where they come from?
Before finishing your rough draft, check the	Have I researched and considered other points of view
viewpoint of your argument. Make sure you	and identified their strengths and weaknesses?
acknowledge the opposing sides of your argument	How are my assumptions shaping my point of view?
and then identify their weaknesses to further	Should I remedy or better justify those assumptions?
support your point.	