

Critical Thinking

The skills of Critical Thinking are important whatever subject you are studying. They enable you to assess what's been said or written by asking the right questions: 'What does this mean?' 'What else could it mean?' 'What other evidence do I need?' With your answers, you can suggest other explanations or scenarios: 'Perhaps it's this rather than that'. As a creative, enquiring thinker, you can then move on to produce well-argued material of your own.

As with all Teach In Time courses, this course has been designed using the National Curriculum.

Excellent critical thinking skills will:

- Develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments
- Supports thinking skills in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences.
- Preparation for students wishing to progress onto Higher Education or employment

Academic Writing

Non-fiction is a type or **genre** of writing based on facts and real life rather than a made-up or fictional story. Non-fiction includes any kind of text designed to give information. There are a range of forms of non-fiction including:

- Newspaper or magazine articles
- Biographies
- Advertisements and advertorials
- Film and book reviews
- Writing reports and Essays
- Writing Speeches
- Persuasive Writing

When writing non-fiction, you also need to understand the purpose of the writing and who it is aimed at – the audience.

- **Audience** - who is the text aimed at (e.g. men or women, adult or youth)?
- **Purpose** - what is the text trying to do (e.g. inform, persuade, argue or advise)?

Critical Thinking Course Topic

The 'big question' for this course is:

“Technological advances in the modern era: “Technological advances in the modern era mean that people under thirty are the stupidest generation ever.”

The students will build their argument considering whether this is true or not – using evidence to support their stance. They will learn about different writing styles; argument, persuasive, speech. The final writing assignment will be to present their argument for or against the statement – ‘Technological advances in the modern era have raised questions about whether the current generation of people under thirty should be seen as the stupidest generation.’

Students will be given articles to read before lessons and will also be given written homework assignments – each written homework will support the writing of the final assignment. The final assignment for the course will be for students to write their essay on the question - Technological advances in the modern era. Students will be encouraged during this course to carry out their own independent research, and present findings to the group.

Non-Fiction and Critical Thinking Curriculum

10, 2 hour - lessons

Lesson	Content	Homework	Pre-reading
Lesson 1	Introduction to Non-Fiction Texts and Critical Thinking – Audience and purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is Non-Fiction?• Audience and Purpose• What are Critical Thinking Skills?	Reebok advert/article	Essay on The Telltale Heart
Lesson 2	Essay Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is an essay?• Essay conventions• Referencing and plagiarism	Basic essay about essays	Mail Online
Lesson 3	Critical Thinking <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Essay Writing – understanding the question, the thesis• What is a claim?	Write an essay question about one of the articles we have analysed	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyzing an article 		
Lesson 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay Writing – planning the main body Writing to argue - analysis of structure and language Writing to argue – planning your own argument 	Research big essay question	Computer games are bad for you
Lesson 5	<p>Essay Writing – including evidence in your essay</p> <p>What is inference?</p> <p>Writing to argue – writing tips</p>	Make a mindmap	The Learning Power Approach extract
Lesson 6	<p>Writing to Persuade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay Writing – PEEL technique Rhetorical devices and persuasive techniques Writing to Persuade 		School Trips
Lesson 7	<p>Essay Writing – the Introduction and Conclusion</p> <p>Writing about literature – close reading and finding evidence</p> <p>Writing about literature – planning a mini-essay</p> <p>Mini essay poetry</p>		Frankenstein
Lesson 8	<p>Essay Writing – the first draft and topic sentences</p> <p>Reading – analyse how tech is changing article</p> <p>Building an argument</p> <p>Preparing to write your final essay</p>		How tech is changing the brain
Lesson 9	<p>Essay Writing – redrafting (SPaG)</p> <p>Using advanced techniques exercise</p> <p>Case/studies evidence slides</p> <p>Write intro</p>	Section 1 of essay	Admit it older people
Lesson 10	<p>Essay Writing – redrafting (SPaG)</p> <p>Writing in the appropriate style</p> <p>Supported re-drafting</p>		Exam Howlers

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