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Module 2, Unit 5: Boost your critical thinking skills for planning an oral history project

Developing critical thinking





Why is critical thinking important to create our oral history project?

Because critical thinking is the way our mind makes sense of the world, makes choices and organizes information in an objective way that allows us to make an evaluation of the situation and to give a judgement





When you write a story, critical thinking tells you a range of essential things

- what there is
- what brings us to write a story
- what the topic is
- what our options are
- what the obstacles are
- what is important
- what is unimportant
- what our "history" is
- when it is better do write our story
- why







Critical Thinking

Is a <u>self-directed</u> process by which we take <u>deliberate steps</u> to think at the <u>highest level</u> of quality

Critical thinking is...

- Understanding the links between ideas.
- Determining the importance and relevance of arguments and ideas.
- Recognising, building and appraising arguments.
- Identifying inconsistencies and errors in reasoning.
- Approaching problems in a consistent and systematic way.
- Reflecting on the justification of their own assumptions, beliefs and values.







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Critical Thinking has the potential to be a deeply creative process. Pearl Zhu





Develop your critical thinking

When telling or writing a story, critical thinking will essential to you. You can practice it through these 5 simple excercises:

- 1. Waste no time: think back over your day and evaluate your strengths and weaknesses, instead of watching TV.
- 2. Learn something new everyday by reading or listening to the radio
- 3. Develop a questioning mind by asking meaningful questions that lead to constructive and useful answers
- 4. Practice active listening
- 5. Solve just one problem, choose one problem every day or so that you want to work on solving and find a resolution for it





How to improve your critical thinking to write your story? (1/2)

- Kruchin suggests that students can start improving their writing and critical thinking skills by reading.
- However, you should not read without a goal in mind, but should rather be an active reader by studying how other writers build their arguments. In other words, you should consider the critical thinking of each **author** you have read.







How to improve your critical thinking to write your story? (2/2)

You can ask yourself:

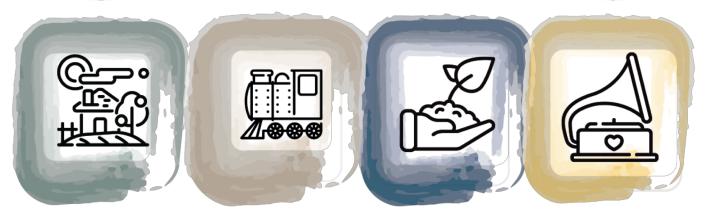
- *How is the content organized here?*
- *How is the writer connecting these ideas?*
- Look at the quote that the writer used.
- *What comes after this quote?*
- Does the writer just leave it as is, or analyze it and adds his or her own idea?

The goal here is to develop the ability to understand how others think. In addition, it helps you to discover the critical thinking resources that you have inside yourself.





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