

Critical thinking and reading

What does critical thinking involve?

Recognising and evaluating the evidence of others' arguments

Considering all sides of an argument – even those we do not agree with

Constructing your own reasoned argument that is based on evidence

Identifying underlying assumptions and biases, and challenging these

What is a text?

A text is a piece of work (written, spoken, or filmed) that communicates a message to an audience, and which can be critically read.



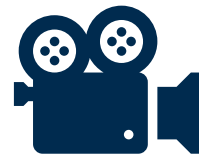
Books



Articles



Images



Films



Webpages

Strategy for reading a text critically

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <p>Who</p> | <p>Who created the text? Whose perspective is emphasised in the text? How does the text's creator influence the content?</p> |
| <p>What</p> | <p>What form does the text take? How does the type of media influence the content? What is the text trying to communicate? What evidence does the text give to support its claims? What is missing?</p> |
| <p>Why</p> | <p>Why does the text exist? I.e., what is the text's purpose?</p> |
| <p>Where and when</p> | <p>Where does the text come from? How does the text's industry/country of origin influence the content? When was the text created? How does its date of creation influence the content?</p> |

Use critical thinking in your everyday life. Thinking critically means you are less likely to be a victim of a scam or to believe mis/disinformation in the media. **Start to examine sources of information** and make a judgement on whether the source and the evidence it provides are credible.

Reference

Cottrell, S., (2017). *Critical Thinking Skills*. 3rd edition. Bloomsbury Publishing.



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