

Critical Thinking Checklist

Identify what is important:

	What are the key ideas, problems, arguments, observations, findings, conclusions?
	What evidence is there?
	Distinguish critical from other types of writing (eg descriptive); fact from opinion; bias from reasons

Evaluate what you find:

	Explore the evidence - does it convince?
	What assumptions are being made and inferences drawn?
	Is there engagement with relevant, up to date research?
	How appropriate are the methods of investigation?
	Is there a consistent and logical line of reasoning?
	Are there any flaws in the argument?
	Do you agree with what's being said? Why?
	How is language being used (emotive, biased etc.)?

Look beyond what you are reading/hearing:

	What other viewpoints, interpretations and perspectives are there? What's the evidence for these? How do they compare?
	How does your prior knowledge and understanding relate to these ideas, findings, observations etc.?
	What are the implications of what you are reading/hearing?

Clarifying your point of view:

	Weigh up the relevant research in the area
	Find effective reasons and evidence for your views
	Reach conclusions on the basis of your reasoning
	Illustrate your reasons with effective examples

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn y Gymraeg.

Adapted from University of Sussex: <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/s3/?id=91> Accessed 30th August 2011