

Critical Thinking Essay

What is a Critical Thinking essay?

Analysis. Conclusions. Proof.

How will you write your own Critical Thinking essay?

Make an honest statement using your own voice. Tell why you believe what you believe. Revise so your reader can really hear what you're saying. Cut parts that lead readers astray. Edit for tone and transitions. Don't worry. It's a process made up of small parts. We'll work through it together.

How will you know what to write about?

You have two options:

Poetry explication: Choose a poem. What do you think the poem means? Why? How does the poet use craft to enhance meaning? There are no right or wrong answers. Your job is to make a case for what you see in a poem. You might also suggest reasons for the poet's choices looking at the time the poem was written or other factors influencing context. I would prefer you NOT refer to sources for others' interpretations of the poem. You may, however, use sources to learn about the poet's life and times. Do include a works cited. Also include an appendix with a copy of the poem. (3 to 4 pages)

Supported Opinion Essay: Choose a topic. Make a statement. Support it. Why do you believe what you believe? There are no right or wrong answers. Choose reliable sources to enhance your credibility. You might even include a proposal for change. Include a works cited. (3 to 4 pages)

What is expected, academically?

Write an engaging and well-supported essay explaining and supporting your position. Your essay should unfold clearly and logically and should respect the grammar, usage, and mechanics of standard written English. That said, you will be graded equally in three areas:

Engaging the Reader (still important) • **Clarity of Expression** (now includes support for your opinion) • **Grammar, Usage & Mechanics** (always important)

How will you begin?

Make a choice. Just begin.

100 points

Check your syllabus for draft checkpoint dates and the final draft due date!