Critical Thinking

1 of 1 Handout on Critical Thinking

The Ultimate Cheatsheet for
Critical Thinking

Want to exercise critical thinking skills? Ask these questions whenever you discover or discuss new information. These are broad and versatile questions that have limitless applications!

Who

- ... benefits from this?
- ... is this harmful to?
- ... makes decisions about this?
- ... is most directly affected?
- ... have you also heard discuss this?
- ... would be the best person to consult?
- ... will be the key people in this?
- ... deserves recognition for this?

What

- ... are the strengths/weaknesses?
- ... is another perspective?
- ... is another alternative?
- ... would be a counter-argument?
- ... is the best/worst case scenario?
- ... is most/least important?
- ... can we do to make a positive change?
- ... is getting in the way of our action?

Where

- ... would we see this in the real world?
- ... are there similar concepts/situations?
- ... is there the most need for this?
- ... in the world would this be a problem?
- ... can we get more information?
- ... do we go for help with this?
- ... will this idea take us?
- ... are the areas for improvement?

When

- ... is this acceptable/unacceptable?
- ... would this benefit our society?
- ... would this cause a problem?
- ... is the best time to take action?
- ... will we know we've succeeded?
- ... has this played a part in our history?
- ... can we expect this to change?
- ... should we ask for help with this?

Why

- ... is this a problem/challenge?
- ... is it relevant to me/others?
- ... is this the best/worst scenario?
- ... are people influenced by this?
- ... should people know about this?
- ... has it been this way for so long?
- ... have we allowed this to happen?
- ... is there a need for this today?

How

- ... is this similar to _____?
- ... does this disrupt things?
- ... do we know the truth about this?
- ... will we approach this safely?
- ... does this benefit us/others?
- ... does this harm us/others?
- ... do we see this in the future?
- ... can we change this for our good?