



Think about the message

- What is the underlying message of the piece?
- If you're not sure, see what you can infer from the text (or the author's tone).

Make mental images

- Try to picture the text in your mind, as if it were a movie or TV show.
- What does your mental image look like?

Ask questions

- Is there anything you don't understand (for example, an unfamiliar word or concept)?
- If so, you may need to conduct more research.

Connect to existing knowledge

- Do you have any background knowledge on the subject?
- How does it connect to what you've just read?

Reflect on your reaction

- What is your opinion on the text?
- Has it changed your mind about the topic? Why or why not?

Determine key points

- Summarize the piece by listing the main ideas.
- Do some ideas seem more important than others?
- If so, that might give you a clue about the message of the piece.

Your thought process plays an important role in your ability to synthesize information.

The next time you read something online, **stop and think** before you put the information to use. You might be surprised by what you discover.

Critical Thinking Tips

For gaining insight to stories, blogs, articles, and other written content