

Critical Thinking

The skills of Critical Thinking are important whatever subject you are studying. They enable you to assess what's been said or written by asking the right questions: 'What does this mean?' 'What else could it mean?' 'What other evidence do I need?' With your answers, you can suggest other explanations or scenarios: 'Perhaps it's this rather than that'. As a creative, enquiring thinker, you can then move on to produce well-argued material of your own.

As with all Jinstar courses, this course has been designed using the National Curriculum.

Excellent critical thinking skills will:

- Develops the ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate ideas and arguments
- Supports thinking skills in all subject areas, from arts and humanities to sciences.
- Preparation for students wishing to progress onto Higher Education or employment

Academic Writing

Non-fiction is a type or **genre** of writing based on facts and real life rather than a made-up or fictional story. Non-fiction includes any kind of text designed to give information. There are a range of forms of non-fiction including:

- Newspaper or magazine articles
- Biographies
- Advertisements and advertorials
- Film and book reviews
- Writing reports and Essays
- Writing Speeches
- Persuasive Writing

When writing non-fiction, you also need to understand the purpose of the writing and who it is aimed at – the audience.

- **Audience** - who is the text aimed at (e.g. men or women, adult or youth)?
- **Purpose** - what is the text trying to do (e.g. inform, persuade, argue or advise)?

Critical Thinking Course Topic

The 'big question' for this course is:

“Technological advances in the modern era: “Technological advances in the modern era mean that people under thirty are the stupidest generation ever.”

The students will build their argument considering whether this is true or not – using evidence to support their stance. They will learn about different writing styles, argument, persuasive, speech. The final writing assignment will be to present their argument for or against the statement – ‘Technological advances in the modern era have raised questions about whether the current generation of people under thirty should be seen as the stupidest generation.’

Students will be given articles to read before lessons and will also be given written homework assignments – each written homework will support the writing of the final assignment. The final assignment for the course will be for students to write their essay on the question - Technological advances in the modern era. Students will be encouraged during this course to carry out their own independent research, and present findings to the group.

Non-Fiction and Critical Thinking Curriculum

10, 2 hour - lessons

Lesson 1	Introduction to Non-Fiction Texts and Critical Thinking – Audience and purpose
Lesson 2	Essay Writing – how to structure your essay, tense, language, referencing
Lesson 3	Critical Thinking – Giving Claims a Significance – What is a claim?
Lesson 4	Writing to Argue – language, tense, vocabulary, structure of argument
Lesson 5	Critical Thinking – Inferences and Assumptions – What does this mean?
Lesson 6	Writing to Persuade – language, tense, vocabulary, structure
Lesson 7	Speech Writing – How to structure your speech, opening statement, rule of three, alliteration, source, evidence
Lesson 8	Critical Thinking – Building up of an Argument – how to build an argument, looking at evidence
Lesson 9	Critical Thinking – Hypothesis, analogies, definitions and principles, credibility of evidence
Lesson 10	Critical Thinking – Producing the Argument and review

