

THE BIG PICTURE: HOW TO THINK CRITICALLY



Follow the **CLUES**
to Critical Thinking

CONSIDER THE SOURCE

ASK YOURSELF

- Where does this information come from?
- Who is the author?
- Who is he or she talking to?
- How do the source and the audience shape the author's perspective?

*I read it on the Internet.
It must be true.*

*My parents always
watch this TV
station. Of course
it's reliable.*

LAY OUT THE ARGUMENT

ASK YOURSELF

- What argument is the author asking you to accept?
- If you accept the argument, what values are you also buying?
- Does the argument hold together logically?

*Arguments sound
like conflict.
I hate conflict.*

**OCEAN OF
EXCUSES**

*Values are private.
It's rude to pry.*

*Logic gives
me hives!*

*Data means numbers.
Numbers freak me out.*

UNCOVER THE EVIDENCE

ASK YOURSELF

- Did the author do research to back up the conclusions?
- Is there any evidence or data that is not provided that should be there?
- If there is no evidence provided, does there need to be?

BRIDGE to ENLIGHTENMENT

*What, do I look like some
kind of detective?*