



# Digital Literacy Skills: Critical Thinking

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# Digital Literacy Skills: Critical Thinking



## What is Critical Thinking?

There are many definitions of critical thinking, in its most basic form, it is about being able to think critically, students need to be able to

1. Analyse and evaluate information and arguments
2. See patterns and connections,
3. Identify and build meaningful information

They then need to apply it to a real-world context and be able to put it in their own words.





## Why is it Important?

Children and teens need to develop critical thinking skills in order to get the best use out of digital technology. Asking questions and to remain sceptical will help them to navigate the wealth of information that is available. By asking questions they will be able to figure out the meaning of the messages they are receiving. They will be able to identify if it is fake news, whether information they read is valid or not, whether sources are reliable, and whether the information is accurate. <https://www.webwise.ie/teachers/what-is-fake-news/>.

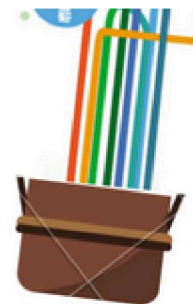
Students who practice critical thinking and evaluation skills are less passive in their consumption of digital technology. They become more compassionate and empathetic when participating in an online world. Use our



## QUICK GUIDE TO CRITICAL THINKING AND



# EVALUATION



## START WITH ASKING WHO?

Who wrote it?  
Who is it aimed at?  
Who will benefit from this?  
Who is affected by this?  
Who would know more on this?  
Who are their sources?  
Who is sponsoring this information?



## THEN ASK WHAT?

What are they NOT telling me?  
What would the opposition say?  
What more would I like to know?  
What is most/least important?  
What are the strengths/weaknesses?



## WHERE? WHERE? WHERE?

Where did this information come from?  
Where did it happen?  
Where is the evidence to back this up?  
Where can I validate this information?  
Where have I seen a similar opinion?



## WHEN?

When did this happen?  
When was this written?  
When was it last updated?



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When might this be useful?  
When has this happened before?



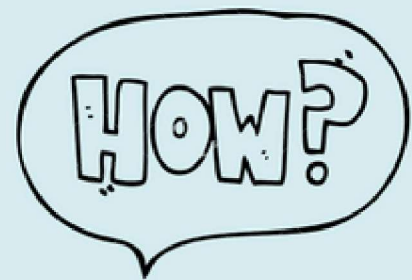
## WHY?

Why has this been written?  
Why did the writer take this point of view?  
Why am I seeing this?  
Why is this relevant?  
Why do people need to know this?



## HAVE YOU ASKED HOW?

How do I know its true?  
How reliable is this?  
How can I tell if this website credible?  
How do I know if this is biased?  
How would I put this in my own words?  
How will this benefit/harm us?



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