

E2. What's Really True?

Critical Thinking—Student Guide

In our 21st century world, increased access to information makes us more vulnerable to misinformation from all sources. As a result, we must acquire habits that help us “vet” all information, from all sources, to determine how reliable or truthful it is.

Consider the tenets of critical thinking below in all research, discussion, writing and media.

TENETS OF CRITICAL THINKING

1. Know the difference between what *must* be true and what *might* be true.
2. Know the relative probabilities of levels of truth—likelihood of truth.
3. Know the difference between emotional reactive thinking and rational (reasoned) thinking.
4. Develop opinions from reflection and contemplation in addition to research, empirical fact and reason.
5. Question and research the validity and background of all sources of information.
6. Use accurate vocabulary and logic when expressing ideas.