

Academic Writing: University Expectations and TESOL

Key Terms	Translated Definition	View
Business		
Logic/Reason Problem-solving Application of content knowledge Distill main ideas Clear expression	Critical thinking is identifying the main idea(s) of an issue and finding alternative solutions to solving the problem, all while applying content knowledge and logical synthesizing and analytical strategies to clearly express one's argument or stance.	Objective
Engineering		
Logic/Reason Identify main ideas/issues Synthesize Analyze Audience awareness	Critical thinking is the ability to understand , analyze , and synthesize complex information, identify its significance, articulate particular engineering criteria, and assess the audience's technological familiarity, or knowledge.	Objective
Philosophy		
Comprehend Examine Determine Validity Logic/reason Clear articulation Defend	Critical thinking is the ability to comprehend any given argument, examine its parts to determine its validity, and develop an argument using logic and reason to defend your stance in a clearly articulated fashion.	Objective
History		
Identify significance, particular elements, validity Ask questions Micro to Macro thinking (12 steps) Discover insight Logic/reason Draw conclusions	Critical thinking is the ability to ask the necessary questions that will facilitate micro to macro thinking, leading to the identification of particular elements of a source, its significance and validity, discover insight, and to use sound logic and reason to draw conclusions .	Subjective
English		
Personal experience Reflection Understand/Comprehend Interpret Analyze Objectivity Consider multiple perspectives/outcomes Identify significance Ask questions Discernment Evaluate Infer Defend Connect ideas Beyond the text	Critical thinking is the ability to understand , analyze , and evaluate the text beyond its surface meaning with discernment; identify its significance; connect ideas through inference , interpretation , and personal experience; be aware of one's own perspective while considering multiple perspectives through objectivity , asking questions, and reflecting ; and to consider multiple outcomes.	Subjective

Notes

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University Expectations

Assignments

- ♦ Essays, In-class responses, reflections

Skills & Improvements

- ♦ Concise expression, clarity, organization

Feedback

- ♦ Content, clarity, organization
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Suggestions for ESL/EFL Teachers

1. Teach some history

- ✓ Organization = logic
- ✓ Compare origins

2. Emphasize in-class responding

- ✓ Comprehension & limited, focused responses

3. Process and reflect

- ✓ Multiple revisions, applying FB
- ✓ Accountability, learner autonomy

4. Have a little bit of everything

- ✓ Introduce contextual CT strategies
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Suggestions for university professors

Encourage use of **Alternative Sources** of FB

- ♦ Classroom mentors
- ♦ Promote learner autonomy
- ♦ Promote audience awareness
- ♦ Promote cultural awareness