

Evaluation Checklist

Use this checklist to observe and assess evaluative thinking.

Determining the Credibility of Sources

- Infers assumptions supporting information when determining the credibility of a source
- Detects bias
- Determines the expertise of the author
- Determines the credibility of qualitative and quantitative evidence

Responding to Persuasive Arguments

- Looks for sound reasoning in persuasive arguments
- Detects false dilemmas in arguments—reducing complex issues with multiple options to either-or issues
- Detects begging the question in arguments—using a claim itself as evidence for the validity of the claim
- Detects poisoning the well in arguments—discounting any evidence that conflicts with their views
- Detects evading the issue in arguments—changing the subject to one that is less difficult to deal with
- Detects appeals to authority in arguments—claiming validity by referring to an authority's position
- Detects arguing from ignorance in arguments—arguing that since a claim cannot be proven to be false, it must be true
- Detects straw man in arguments—portraying an opposing point of view inaccurately

Forming Opinions

- Uses a thorough and sophisticated analysis of different kinds of information from a wide variety of sources to form opinions

Communicating Opinions

- Explains opinion with sincere belief and commitment
- Presents various conflicting viewpoints and explains the benefits and drawbacks of each
- Conveys the complexity of the issue by describing the interaction of a variety of factors