

Values of Inquiry—supporting questions

Clarity

- Are your examples useful?
- Is your argument structure clear?
- Are your diagrams easy to understand?
- Is your paragraph structure well-developed?
- Are your words well-defined and unambiguous?

Accuracy

- Is your argument sound?
- Are your claims justified?
- Is what you are saying true?
- Have you represented ideas faithfully?
- How could people check on your claim?

Precision

- Is your attention to detail sufficient?
- Have you used technical terms appropriately?
- Have you quantified your information where appropriate?
- Are any bullet points categorically distinct from each other?
- Have you identified areas of vagueness or ambiguity in your topic?

Relevance

- Have you focussed on the point at issue?
- Have you selected information supporting the topic?
- Have you minimised distracting or unhelpful information?
- Have you been able to identify why information is relevant?
- Have you justified why your selection of material is relevant?

Significance

- Have you avoided superficial issues or arguments?
- Have you identified and developed your core ideas?
- Has your analysis identified the most significant areas?
- Have you identified the most meaningful aspects of your topic?
- Has your treatment of the topic focused on substantive aspects?

Depth

- Are the complexities of the issue sufficiently described?
- Have you been thorough in your treatment of the issue?
- Are your analogies effective and your generalisations well-justified?
- Do your arguments consider premises that are themselves conclusions?
- Have the problematic aspects of the issue been identified and dealt with?

Breadth

- Have you considered alternative perspectives?
- Have you represented a broad range of alternative views?
- Why have you preferred one perspective over another?
- Have you sought out others for the purpose of testing your ideas?
- Has your breadth of treatment allowed you to synthesis a new perspective?

Coherence (Logic)

- Have you avoided using logical fallacies?
- Have you avoided contradicting statements?
- Are your ideas developed in a logical manner?
- Do all your premises support your conclusions?
- Have you used transition phrases to identify logical progressions?

Values of inquiry modified from Elder, L. and R. Paul (2001). "Critical Thinking: Thinking with Concepts." *Journal of Developmental Education* 24(3).

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