Critical Thinking develops thinking and reasoning knowledge, skills and confidence. Students learn to construct arguments, rebut counter-arguments and critically appraise alternative solutions.

Critical Thinking is a UNIFY Project for students in Year 7-8-9-10. It is available in Round 2 and Round 3. Schools can include students from one year level or form a composite group across Year 7-8-9-10.

The target group for Critical Thinking is students who would benefit from extension in higher order thinking. Many schools use this project as part of their extension program for high achieving or gifted students. It can also be used as a tool to engage students who are coasting and may respond to a challenging learning program.

### Content & Assessment Guide

<table>
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<th>Lesson No.</th>
<th>Lesson Focus</th>
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| 1 | Project Introduction, Technology Introduction  
Introduction to the project content and web conferencing technology. |
| 2 | IMPACT and Introduction to Argument  
Introduction to IMPACT workflow via guidelines for discussions, reasons and ideas. eLearn tour and practice quiz. |
| 3 | Pre-assessment  
Knowledge quiz in eLearn followed by student construction of an argument. Brief review of IMPACT workflow via argument guidelines. |
| 4 | Cognitive Bias  
Examples of cognitive bias and other phenomena that preclude good reasoning |
| 5 | Justify Yourself  
Recognise the difference between strong and weak arguments. Recognise and identify types of reasoning. |
| 6 | Fallacies  
Introduction to common logical fallacies. |
| 7 | Standard Argument - Planning  
The components of a standard argument. Planning a standard argument and gathering supporting evidence for premises. |
| 8 | Ethics and Philosophy  
The difference between ethics and morals. Resolving conflicts between ethical and moral considerations. |
| 9 | Morals and Justice  
Making decisions when faced with moral dilemmas, using arguments to justify moral choices. |
| 10 | Spin  
The difference between fallacies and spin. Practise recognising and creating spin. |
| 11 | Standard Argument Technique  
Post-assessment quiz in eLearn. Use stimulus from pre-test to create a full argument for submission and grading. |
| 12 | Where to From Here  
Review, consolidate and extend on project learning. Celebrate success. |

**NB: This is a guide only – there may be minor changes.**

### Key Points

- Students participate in 1 x 60-70 min web conference per week and access online extension activities any time.
- Students connect with university and industry representatives via a special online event each round, including representatives from the School of History, Philosophy and Classics from the University of Queensland.