
Questioning as we learn: An introduction to critical thinking

Material for Higher Education students in Sierra Leone by INASP, UK



Provided by the Critical Thinking Taskforce (CTTF)
within the project AQHEd-SL

Unit 6 - Snippet 135

Please see our sample answers to the questions of snippet 134 below. Compare how similar or different they are compared to your thoughts.

- 1. What kind of thinking does the author want us to engage in? What key questions does the text address?*

The author wants us to think like a judge, and to accept his/her viewpoint on online education, which in the author's view is not as good as face-to-face education. The author is trying to convince us that students need face-to-face education.
- 2. What claims does the author make? Are they well supported by the premises?*

The author claims that face-to-face education makes studying more useful and helpful than online education. The author accepts that online courses are increasing in popularity all over the world, and that huge numbers of students take online courses. The author's premises based on which she/he concludes her/his claim are: In face-to-face education students can approach their teacher easily, students can connect with classmates, and students can learn a sense of responsibility to study.

The author makes two new claims in the conclusion (snippet 134):

 - The most advanced way is not always the best.
 - Students should choose the way which is the best for them to study.

However, these claims are unfounded (not well-supported by premises) and not clearly connected to the major claim.
- 3. What are the most important facts, experiences, and/or opinions the author uses to support his or her ideas?*

The verifiable facts are that online courses are increasingly popular all over the world. In the author's opinion, connecting with the teacher easily, making friends and learning from classmates are some of the benefits of studying inside a classroom; keeping schedules is one of the most important requirements of a workplace; and students can learn about responsibility by taking face-to-face classes. The author fails to provide any data or personal experiences to support any of these opinions.