

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 2 - Snippet 35

The table below describes the 6 frames that authors typically use to organize content. Depending on its purpose, the text focuses on typical questions and the reader engages in a typical kind of thinking. Examples of professions (scientist, news reporter, ...) demonstrate what kind of reader could be interested in such a text.

	If the text seems to focus on ...	then the frame is ...	and the reader thinks like a ...
1	Why things happen; Why or how something works/happens	Cause/effect	Scientist Analyst Investigative journalist
2	What something is or looks like; How something can be described/ classified	Concept/definition	News reporter Student consulting an encyclopaedia
3	How things are alike/different or positive/negative	Compare/contrast	Shopper Decision-maker
4	How to do something; What steps/directions/procedures to follow	Goal/action/outcome	Coach Instructor / trainer Project implementer
5	What is wrong and how it can be taken care of; What needs to be improved/changed;	Problem/solution	Troubleshooter Mender / repairer Project developer
6	Why accept an opinion/hypothesis/theory/argument; What viewpoint is being expressed; How conclusions are based on studies/evidence	Proposition/support	Judge Advocate Literary critic

In the following snippets, you will be provided with text examples for each frame.