



The Skills Hub

Evaluating arguments

Question	Have you thought about this?
Reasons:	
What evidence has the writer given for their conclusions?	
Is the amount of evidence enough?	
Is the research used up-to-date and relevant?	
If an experiment or a survey has been done, is the sample representative?	
How appropriate are the methods of investigation?	
Overall, are you convinced by the evidence that the writer uses?	
Sources:	
Which sources has the writer cited in their text?	
Does the writer consider the different points of view fairly?	
Has the author failed to refer to another writer whose argument could be used to support or undermine their argument?	
What do other writers say about the subject? How do they compare?	
Overall, do you agree with the secondary sources that the writer uses?	
Assumptions:	
What assumptions are being made by the writer?	
How many of the assumptions are made explicit?	
Are the assumptions upon which the argument is based true?	
Conclusions:	
Is there a consistent and logical line of reasoning from the evidence to the conclusions made?	
Do all the conclusions necessarily follow from the premises?	
How does your prior knowledge and understanding relate to these conclusions?	
Overall, do you agree with the conclusions that the writer makes?	
Implications:	
Has the writer mentioned the implications of their conclusions?	
Are there any useful or positive implications?	
Would any of the implications have negative outcomes?	
Can you identify any implications that the author has not written about, either positive or negative?	
Overall, how do you feel about the implications from the writer's conclusions?	
Style of writing:	
How much of the writing is critical, rather than descriptive?	
Is any of the argument conveyed through unsubstantiated personal opinion rather than through engaging with evidence?	
Does the argument use emotional appeal?	
How is language being used (emotive, biased, factual etc.)?	