

# Using the Critical Thinking Model



Use each phase of the York Technical College Critical Thinking Model to help you think critically as you formulate the best response to questions and problems.

## Level 1

### **Decide what you think and why you think it.**

(identify, gather, examine, formulate, apply, evaluate, and reflect)

Put your position in writing. Try to figure out why you think what you think.

What evidence do you have to support your thoughts on the issue? Explain what you've seen or learned that supports your thinking. Opinions need to be based on evidence of some kind.

What additional information do you need or what questions do you want answered in order to substantiate your position?

## Level 2

### **Seek other views and more evidence.**

(identify, gather, examine, formulate, apply, evaluate, and reflect)

Look for other views on the topic as well as any evidence and reasoning behind those views. As you investigate try to understand the position of not only those who share your views, but also those who disagree with you. Look at all the evidence.

Write about your findings both in favor of your position and against. Be sure to include the references to your sources and attach your sources.

## Level 3

### **Decide which view is most reasonable.**

(identify, gather, examine, formulate, apply, evaluate, and reflect)

Measure your view and the views of others against the evidence to decide which view is most reasonable based on the evidence.

Has your view as stated in level 1 changed after examining the evidence? If needed, revise your original position as stated in level 1. Explain any reasons for revising or not revising your original view.

Information taken from the 1993 supplement to *Becoming a Master Student*, **Critical Thinking** by Vincent Ryan Ruggiero ISBN: 0-942456-08-4.

### **Sample Practice Questions:**

- a. Do you think students who are caught cheating should fail?
- b. Do you think women should take their husbands' names when they marry?
- c. Is legalizing drugs the most effective answer to America's growing drug problem?
- d. Should there be mandatory prison terms for people convicted of drunken driving?
- e. When children are accused of serious crimes, do you believe they should be prosecuted as adults?
- f. Who's to judge what's right or wrong? Why does judging have a bad odor in American culture?
- g. Do you believe cigarette manufacturers should be held legally responsible for the deaths of smokers due to lung cancer?
- h. Should moral education be included as part of public education, including college education?
- i. Should animals be used in painful experiments in order to find cures for diseases?
- j. Should the law classify euthanasia (mercy killing) as a criminal offense?
- k. Should illegal immigrants be allowed to stay in this country?
- l. Do UFOs exist?
- m. Should corporal punishment (spanking) be allowed in schools?
- n. Do you support the "three strikes you're out" law?
- o. Do parents have the right to deny medical treatment to their children for religious reasons?
- p. Would teaching and learning be more effective if grading were abolished or changed in some way?
- q. Should gambling be legalized in all states?
- r. When the media reports violent crimes such as killings in schools, are they contributing to the problem? Should the media be banned from reporting these types of crimes?
- s. Should there be mandatory prison terms for people convicted of drunk driving?
- t. Would you support a requirement that beer, wine, and liquor be labeled with a warning similar to the warning on cigarette packages?