

A final word

Critical Thinking on the Web is, to my knowledge, the most comprehensive and useful guide to critical thinking resources available on the web. As such, it is a valuable resource for the entire critical thinking community. However, I'm very much aware that it is incomplete in various respects. The trouble is that there is a limit to the amount of time I can spend trawling the web to maintain and extend the site. I appeal to everyone to help me out in this by emailing me any suggestions for additions and changes. The site can then become the community's resource rather than just my own list of favored links.

Pedagogical Ideas

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Planned Student Participation

1) When the syllabus is presented to the class, have a calendar of the course included with each syllabi. Each student chooses at least one date on which he/she will present a 10 minute summary of the previous session's lecture and discussion. The student will prepare this "protocol" in writing, present it to the class, and respond to questions from the other students, the professor and any guests. At the end of the summary presentation, the student submits the written summary for constructive critique, using standards and elements of critical thinking, of both the written and oral components of the work. A "Protocol" is given in each class session throughout the semester, and the students may also be invited to share in the evaluative process. [From Dr. Masao Abe, Professor Emeritus, Philosophy of Education, Nara University, Japan.]

Expanding True/False questions

2) Add a third column to all true/false and multiple guess tests. The additional option is, "I do not know". This additional option is graded as 1/2 the credit of a correct response. The theory is that a student must have done something to know that they do not remember accurately, or missed the point. The grading and analysis of tests of this nature are not known to me, but they apparently yield quite meaningful data. [From Dr. John Miller, Professor of Theology, Earlham School of Religion.]
