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1. What is critical thinking? A brief history of critical thinking and logic Moving closer to thinking critically The 3 basic components of critical thinking Critical thinking and discussion What happens in dialogue? Plato, master of the written dialogue The dialogue Two models of communication Conclusion The scientific method Thales: an early philosopher-scientist Galileo: a Renaissance philosopher-scientist Kuhn: a contemporary philosopher-scientist The difference between science and pseudoscience Conclusion 2. Writing a philosophical journal What is a philosophical journal? Adding content to your journal Writing a philosophy paper The 3 T method for writing a paper 3. The power of language Persuasion through rhetoric Euphemisms Dysphemisms Rhetorical definitions and rhetorical explanations Stereotypes Innuendo Loaded or complex questions Weaselers Downplayers Horse laugh/ridicule/sarcasm Hyperbole Proof surrogates Rhetorical analogies 4. Examples of sarcasm and rhetorical devices in critical writing 5. The use of analogies and metaphors Writing with analogies and metaphors Index.

Sommario/riassunto

By now you have probably heard the term "critical thinking" mentioned

frequently in the context of your experience in higher education. Much discussion has taken place among educators, professors and many others regarding how to infuse and incorporate critical thinking into the various disciplines and how to help students such as yourself become better able to use it in their studies as well as in their lives generally. It is of course important to start your study of critical thinking by attempting to define this, at times, elusive concept. But, where shall we start? The very term suggests that it has something to do with offering a critique or, more simply, a judgment about someone or something. To some extent, that is true. Critical thinking requires at the very least that you exercise judgment about a topic or issue that has come to your attention and that interests you, for one reason or another. But, that is not the whole story. For one thing, when you engage in critical thinking in the philosophical sense, it is very important to remember that you are not judging people. Instead, you are judging or evaluating what another person or group of people say or assert.