

## CRITICAL THINKING

We suggest that you view the program with the class. Then have them discuss ways in which they have used/misused the various “rules” of critical thinking, using examples from their own lives or from the outside world. Instructors might also find it useful to view the program in sections in order to utilize the different segments in ways that they think are more applicable to their teaching style.

Allow students to provide their own definitions for the following terms, then compare their definitions with those found in the dictionary.

Dictionary Definitions:

Assumption: Something taken for granted or accepted as true without proof.

Fact: Knowledge or information based on real occurrences.

Opinion: A belief or conclusion held with confidence but not substantiated by positive knowledge or proof

Persuasion:

1) Communication intended to induce belief or action

2) Inducement to act by argument or reasoning or entreaty

*Critical Thinking Rules as presented in the program*

### First Court Case

Define the problem

Be clear and concise with your points

Beware of arguments based on emotions

Gather and analyze evidence

Avoid making irrelevant points

Be willing to admit the truth

Be careful when interpreting facts

Consider all sides of the argument

Stay impartial and open-minded

### Second Court Case

Consider the source of your argument

Use logic to defend your points

Avoid stereotyping and using biased opinions

Avoid irrelevant facts

Question your assumptions

Avoid jumping to conclusions

Stereotyping can be dangerous

Be tolerant and open-minded

### Commercial Bit #1

Beware of what commercials do not tell you

Watch out for unsubstantiated claims

Next episode

Do not jump to conclusions

Do not make assumptions without knowing facts

Commercial Bit #2

Watch out for manipulative strategies

Court Room Audience Responses

Be willing to change your mind

Communicate, concentrate, and ask questions

Weigh the pros and cons before making decisions

Distinguish between fact and opinion

Thoroughly investigate the facts

Gather information before making a decision

Avoid using “loaded” words such as racist, sexist, genius, intelligent, idiot