PHI2000 Personal Reflection Paper Outline Template

A. The Path to Critical Thinking

1. ***List keys to good critical thinking, like avoiding emotional decision- making.***

1. Being able to analyze the meaning of the argument
2. Recognizing the arguments and evaluating their strengths.
3. Be able to recognize and avoid fallacies.
4. Making decisions in light of available information or evidence.

2. ***Give an example of how you might apply one or more of these keys to good critical thinking.***

In any argument we must first be able to understand the meaning what the individual is trying to say. Many time body language and tone will play a huge role in determining both how the individual feels about the subject and how they are presenting their argument. Once we understand what they are saying we must be able to determine what type and how much evidence is needed in order to the arguments truth. Next we need to be able to recognize if their evidence is based on fallacies or not. Finally, we have to rely on any knowledge we have on the subject matter that was not presented in the argument.

B. Critical success factors in drawing valid conclusions.

***1. List keys to successfully drawing valid conclusions, like making sure the evidence supports the conclusion.***

1. The truth of all the premises
2. The right type of support by the premises for the conclusion

***2. Give an example of how you might apply one or more of these keys to successfully drawing valid conclusions.***

So with any conclusion you have to determine if the premisses are truth or fallacies. An good example of this would be if the evidence is based on fact or opinion. If it is on fact the it is hard to argue and the statement has to be true. If it is opinion then this can vary from individuals. A good opinion argument would be if abortion is murder or not. Secondly you have to make sure that the evidence is support what the conclusion is and they are relevant to one another.

C. Critical success factors in analyzing arguments.

***1. List keys to successfully analyzing arguments, like identifying indicator words.***

1. Identifying indicator words
2. Recognizing generalizations and types they are.
3. Evaluating conclusion of argument
4. Looking at evidence of argument

***2. Give an example of how you might apply one or more of these keys to successfully analyzing arguments.***

Many arguments have indicator words such as *thus, and so, and consequently*. These indicator words will let you know when the individual is going to state conclusion to their argument. Often evidence is based on generalizations of the topic. These can be either universal or statistical generalizations and the text in which they are used can change the results of the argument. Finally in order to successfully analyze an argument we have to be able to break down the evidence and evaluate its conclusion to determine if they are all valid.

***Properly cite your resources, including our textbook.***

**References**

* Salmon, M.H.(2013). Introduction to Logic and Critical Thinking. *Sixth Edition.*
* Toulmin, S. (1958). The Uses of Argument.