

Application of a Critical Thinking Model to Behavioral Sciences

Critical thinking is often taught as a concept (e.g. spending part of a lesson explaining what it is), rather than being pervasively developed as an intellectual skill. Through this project we will take a developmental approach to teaching four foundational elements of critical thinking (identify evidence, clarify assumptions, seek alternative perspectives, make an interpretation) derived from the Paul and Elder (2006) model. We will systematically integrate critical thinking practices by using structured pre-class assignments for each lesson that align with assessments. We will measure student perceived value for the assignments, their motivations to complete them, and their performance on critical thinking essay questions on the GRs.