

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAMME

Critical Thinking

Day One – Introducing Critical Thinking and Fake News

Morning

What is Fake News?

- Common myths quiz
- What is critical thinking?
- What is critical thinking and how can it help us distinguish what is real from what is fake?
- What are you certain that you know?

What is fake news and why do we believe in it?

- What are the characteristics of fake news?
- Why do people believe in fake news?
- The significance of fake news
- Personal examples of fake news

Tools for Critical Thinking

- What types of reasoning do we use?

Afternoon

Types of reasoning

- Deductive reasoning
- Inductive reasoning

Barriers to rational thinking

- The Fallacy Challenge

Does using reason help us to spot fake news?

- Students play the Fallacy Challenge

SEVENOAKS SCHOOL

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Day Two – Why do we accept statements without thinking critically about them?

Morning

Personality Test

Exploring Barriers to Critical Thinking

- Why else might people believe in fake news even if it has been proven to be untrue?
- Cognitive Dissonance
- Patternicity
- Confirmation Bias
- Echo Chambers
- Obedience to Authority

Group challenge

- In groups of 3, make a video about a barrier to critical thinking. Explain what the barrier is and explain how it limits critical thinking
- Give examples of how it might come into play
- Provide tips for others telling them how to avoid or overcome this phenomenon

Afternoon

Final Debate

‘People should be punished or prosecuted for purposefully fake news.’

- Class splits into 3 groups: Interviewers, For Prosecution, Against Prosecution

Final Task: 10 Steps to Thinking Critically

Explain to the students that over the 2 days they have considered the following:

- Why critical thinking is important (particularly in our contemporary context)
- Tools for developing our critical thinking skills
- Barriers to critical thinking

Students’ final task is to bring all of these together. In pairs they will make a resource for a newspaper titled 10 steps to thinking critically.