

REVIEW of CRITICAL THINKING & AMERICAN HISTORY to 1890

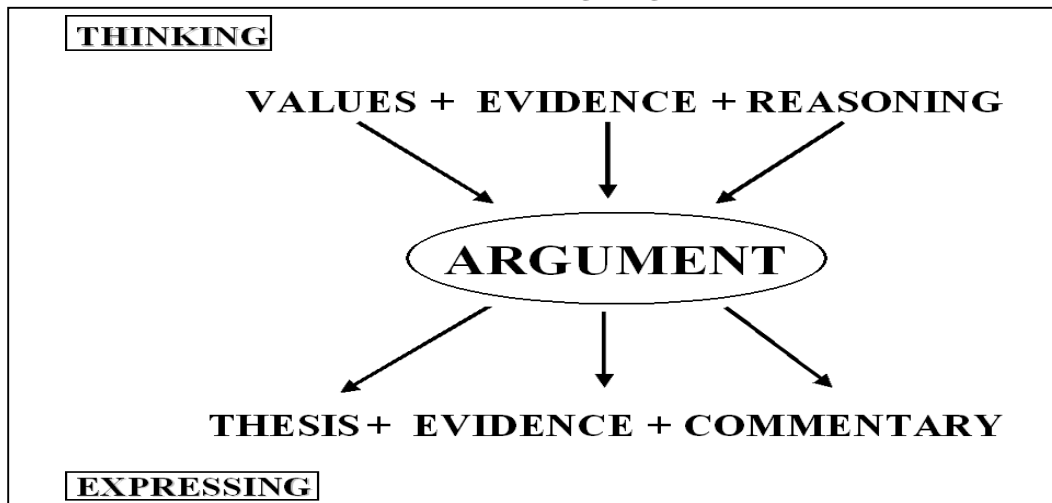
Summary

This unit is a review of what this course is really all about: critical thinking. Basically, critical thinking means thinking for yourself. It means evaluating (critiquing) the information you receive and coming to your own conclusions regarding that information. However, good critical thinking is much more than stubborn independence. Good critical thinking entails a complex of skills. A major goal of this course is to develop and strengthen those skills. We will also be reviewing the American history you studied in Foundations of America.

Essential Question Contextualized

How has freedom shaped American history up to the 20th century and how has American history up to the 20th century shaped history?

Critical Thinking Diagram



Sources

Throughout the Unit, write answers to the following content questions using, underlining and numbering each of the terms on the back of this sheet. Cite sources of information from the following sources.

- ___ PPT: The Critical Thinking Diagram
- ___ Chart: Values Definitions
- ___ Gunnar Myrdal, "American Ideals & the American Conscience"
- ___ "Recognizing Types of Reasoning"
- ___ Eric Foner, "Introduction" to *The Story of American Freedom*
- ___ Eric Foner, chs. 1-6
- ___ PPT: The United States c1890

Content Questions

1. What is "history" and why is "argument" at the center of the study of history?
2. What is "historiography" and different theories of history especially "dialecticism"?
3. What are "values?" What values do we focus on in this course?
4. What is evidence? What is the difference between evaluating evidence & organizing evidence?
5. What is "reasoning?" What are the different categories of historical reasoning? What are the different elements of each category of historical reasoning?
6. What is a "thesis" and what are the characteristics of a good thesis?
7. What is "commentary?"

Terms, Concepts & People:

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| 1. History | 10. Values | 19. Part |
| 2. Argument | 11. Evidence | 20. Sample |
| 3. Historiography | 12. Reasoning | 21. Comparison |
| 4. Dialectic | 13. Cause & Effect | 22. Issue |
| 5. Thesis/Antithesis/Synthesis | 14. Cause | 23. Subject |
| 6. Historian A/B/C | 15. Effect | 24. Thesis |
| 7. The Grand Narrative | 16. Descriptor | 25. Commentary |
| 8. Revisionism | 17. Generalization | |
| 9. The New Left | 18. Whole | |