

Access to Higher Education Unit

This unit forms part of an Access to HE Diploma. If delivering the graded version of this unit, please refer to the Provider Handbook for details on grading descriptors and the application of these across units within your programme.

Unit Title: Communication: Critical Thinking in Academic Writing

Graded Unit Reference Number:

Ungraded Unit Reference Number: UD36DEV35

Module: Developmental

Level: Three [3]

Credit Value: Six [6]

Minimum Guided Learning Hours: 60

Units barred for selection against this unit:

- **Study Skills: Critical Analysis (UD33DEV18)**
- **Communication: Academic Essay Writing (UD33DEV23)**

Learning Outcome (The Learner will):	Assessment Criterion (The Learner can):
1. Understand the need for logic, precision and rationale when presenting ideas and theories in academic writing	1.1 Explain, using examples, differences between academic writing and non-academic writing
	1.2 Discuss why it is important to consider different sources of information when composing academic writing
	1.3 Explain the concept of generalisability and give examples to show how its use can affect individual and societal behaviours

Learning Outcome (The Learner will):	Assessment Criterion (The Learner can):
<p>2. Understand how fundamental questions can assist with thinking critically about sources of information</p>	<p>2.1 Evaluate, using examples, the usefulness of each of the following questions when starting to think critically about a source of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Who wrote the source? b) Why was the source written? c) When was the source written? d) Where was the source published? e) What is the source about? <hr/> <p>2.2 Discuss the limitations of thinking critically outside of academic writing</p>
<p>3. Understand how to begin to apply critical thinking to a current or historical issue</p>	<p>3.1 Explore a current or historical issue and identify a range of information sources suitable for the purposes of writing an academic essay</p> <hr/> <p>3.2 Create an essay plan, including an appropriate title, that incorporates the use of the information sources gathered in AC3.1 into an academic essay</p>
<p>4. Understand the need for structure and use of appropriate conventions in academic essay writing</p>	<p>4.1 Write an essay of 1500 words (+/- 10%) using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Clear, coherent, and logical structure and paragraphing b) Appropriate academic vocabulary and style c) Critical thinking skills d) Fluent, accurate English, observing conventions of spelling, punctuation, and grammar e) Evaluation of source material and appropriate conclusions
<p>5. Understand the importance of academic integrity in critical thinking</p>	<p>5.1 Appropriately acknowledge sources of information and ideas used within your academic essay</p> <hr/> <p>5.2 Use an appropriate system of in-text referencing and produce a reference list or bibliography</p>