Think About It

1. Though abstract reasoning is a higher-order skill, research has shown that abstract thinkers may be more likely to engage in risky behavior whereas concrete thinkers are more likely to avoid risk. Why do you think this is?

2. Why is staying "in the know" about current events important to thinking critically?

Brain Quiz!

1. All of the following are examples of abstract thinking EXCEPT:

    a. Using a Metaphor
    b. Identifying the color of a banana
    c. Forming theories about why something is happening
    d. Coming up with unique solutions to a problem

2. Abstract thinking is most likely to occur in which part of the brain?

    a. Frontal Lobe
    b. Amygdala
    c. Hypothalamus
    d. Occipital Lobe

3. Hobbies and activities that require abstract reasoning include:

    a. sports
    b. scouts
    c. word problems
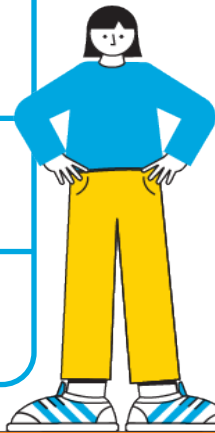   d. all of these require abstract reasoning

4. True or False: Abstract reasoning has been linked to cognitive ability.

5. True or False: Overanalyzing failures is associated with abstract reasoning.

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1.

Activity #1 Class Brainstorm:

When learning new information, it's very important to check whether the source is reliable. As a class, brainstorm sources that are reliable and sources that are unreliable. Make a list on the board. Allow students to use electronic sources to brainstorm answers.

Reliable Sources	Unreliable Sources

Activity #2 Skit:

In groups of 3-5 students, create a skit with people exploring two different sides of a divisive issue while utilizing good abstract reasoning skills and maintaining intellectual empathy.

Issue:

1st Perspective:

2nd Perspective:

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2.

Activity #3 Write About It:

1. Write about a divisive topic that is important to you. Why is it important? Why do you believe what you believe about the issue?

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2. Now imagine that you are just as passionate about the other side of the issue? From this perspective . . . Why do you believe what you believe about the issue? Why is your stance important?

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3. Now reflect on what it's like to explore the other side of the issue.

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3.