

BEL 313 Introduction to Critical Thinking
Offprint 2, FOMAT, UiTM Perak, Malaysia

MAPPING SIMPLE ARGUMENTS by *Teech Airil*

Q. Why should we be mapping simple arguments please? Don't you think that we have other (better) things to do (like not doing anything for example)?

A. Technically, you should learn how to map arguments because you are doing a course called Critical Thinking – even though you have so many other interesting and fun stuff to do.

PLUS for your First Test, this is what you have to do below. The deadline will be given to you by the Course Tutor...

TEST ONE a.k.a. ASSIGNMENT ONE (20% of total grade)

1. Work in pairs (if you want to, but if you want to work alone, this is okay too).
2. The cover page of the Test must correspond with your textbook colour (based on the group that you are in).
3. Make sure you word process Test One, please. By the way there is no page limit for this test.
4. Find 10 C/C in the *whole* article, make sure 5 C/C are followed by S/R and the other 5 C/C are followed by O/O.
5. Do not use the same C/C, S/R or O/O more than once. Have fun now 😊

Q. Thank you so much, I/we really love this first test. But, could you still please try to give us some examples that we could follow? It is not that we are un-critical thinkers, it is just that we are a bit on the not very fast side when it comes to thinking!

A. Okay then, FIRST download Offprint 3 which is a 12 page article by Kristina Dryza (2006) published in Construct magazine, based in London.

Read and try to understand what the article is about. I have outlined four C/C for you, two with S/R and the other two with O/O. Learn them by heart, please ☺

FIRST contention/claim, followed by a support/reason...

C/C:1

People prefer to live in hotels around the world rather than get caught up in the ownership and maintenance of homes plus many more are forgoing permanent jobs for freelancing or working on temporary projects because they all want freedom in their lives (p. 4).

S/R:1

This detached way of being allows some people to live more in the moment with no commitments that bind their happiness (p. 4).

SECOND contention/claim, followed by a support/reason...

C/C:2

Temporariness can also lead to greater enjoyment in our lives (p. 6).

S/R:2

For example, when you rent a car, you can just enjoy the car because there are no consequences as temporary means no maintenance, no ongoing involvement or even stress (p. 6).

FIRST contention/claim, followed by an objection/opposition...

C/C:1

Ownership has always been a symbol of affluence in the west (p. 2 – exact quote).

O/O:1

Beyond a certain point, less becomes more, and the affluent want to go beyond the material and they begin to look for other things (p. 2).

SECOND contention/claim, followed by an objection/opposition...

C/C:2

Candles can be seen as burning money, flowers as watching money wilt and die (p. 8 – exact quote).

O/O:2

It is the momentary and temporary pleasure that things like candles and flowers give to us, in which their value lies (p. 8).

-THE END-