

**The Foundations of Critical Thinking:
A Five-Step Guide to Success in this Class**

1. We explained critical thinking and how it will be applied in this class
2. We explained how to read history and the world around us critically
3. To learn to read critically, we have to accomplish to things:
 - A. To read for meaning and context
 1. what does a document SAY?
 2. the five Ws
 - B. To Read for Argument
4. Arguments
 - * must be arguable
 - * any good argument has a counterargument
 - * argument is a claim backed by evidenceSTRUCTURE → claim/thesis → intermediate steps → conclusion
There are techniques in successful argumentation:
 - *anticipate;
 - *accommodate;
 - *refute;
 - *concede
 - * arguments have very specific rules and one can argue poorly by using any number of logical fallacies (RUGGIERO IS IMPORTANT)
5. ALL THE ABOVE sets the foundation for the rest of this class—subsequent exercises (Declaration of Independence, *Wigan Pier*, music, television shows) show the importance of using the technique listed in items 1-4