Academic Skills for Higher and Degree Apprenticeships

How to Think Critically

To think critically:

Is to examine, evaluate and draw conclusions about the merit of ideas.

When you think critically you:

Challenge information you are given in a constructive manner (within the limits of your expected knowledge and research). This involves:

- Asking questions to explore views points and ideas
- Actively seeking all sides of an argument, examining topics and questions from different perspectives.
- Weighing up evidence for and against ideas.
- Checking the logic of arguments, the validity of evidence used to support claims, looking for flaws in reasoning or bias

Critical thinking:

Is central to studying at higher or degree level. You demonstrate critical thinking when you analyse, evaluate and synthesise (combine and integrate) information from a variety of sources and present your own justified and supported interpretation.

Thinking Critically:

Helps you make informed judgments and create strong arguments of your own. You will be able to justify any claims you make based on evidence you have evaluated.

The aim of critical thinking:

Is to try to maintain an “objective position”, this means you should try to be aware of any preconceptions you have that might limit the way you think about an issue or argument. If in doubt, research other points of views to inform your judgement.