

Module 2: Critical Thinking

2.4 Dialectics and Rhetoric

Introduction to Dialectics

Dialectics is a way of thinking that looks at how different ideas or forces work together, even when they seem opposite. It helps us see the bigger picture by considering both sides of an issue.

Basics of Logical Reasoning

Logical reasoning is about thinking in a clear and organized way to understand how things are connected. It involves:

Making Sense:

Breaking down information into parts to see how they fit together.

Finding Patterns:

Recognizing similarities and differences to make conclusions.



Avoiding Mistakes:

Checking for errors in thinking to reach reliable decisions.

Logical reasoning helps us think critically and make better choices in everyday life.



Rhetorical Analysis - Persuasive techniques in communication



Identifying Emotional Appeals and Manipulation



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1. Notice Emotional Appeals

Trigger Feelings: Messages that evoke strong emotions.
Personal Stories: Stories aimed at connecting emotionally.

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2. Identify Manipulative Tactics

Guilt or Shame: Making you feel bad for not agreeing.
False Urgency: Creating a rush to act quickly.

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3. Understand the Intent

Purpose: Are emotions used to inform or control?
Impact: Consider how emotions affect decisions.

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4. Think About the Context

Fairness: Assess if tactics are honest and ethical.



Constructing Counterarguments

1. Identify the Opposing Viewpoint

Understand the Argument:
Grasp the main points of the opposing position.



2. Find Weaknesses or Gaps

Identify Flaws: Look for inconsistencies or missing evidence in the argument.



3. Provide Evidence

Support Your Position:
Use facts, examples, or statistics to strengthen your counterargument.



4. Address Potential Objections

Anticipate Responses: Think about how the other side might respond and address those points.



5. Use Clear and Logical Language

Be Concise: State your points clearly and logically.



6. Stay Respectful

Avoid Personal Attacks:
Focus on the argument, not the person making it.

