

Critical Thinking within the Disciplines

Have students bring their notes and syllabi to class from other courses in which they are enrolled. Have them get in groups of 3-4 students and give them the following instructions.

Look over your notes and readings from one of your introductory courses, such as history, literature, psychology, sociology, science, or economics. In a small group discuss the following questions:

1. What two or three large questions seem uppermost in the minds of scholars in this discipline? What smaller questions also concern them?
2. What methods do scholars in this field use to generate information and understanding? What methods, if any, do they exclude? In what ways do the methods seem appropriate to the questions? Are there other methods they might use?
3. What general theories, concepts, and metaphors seem to prevail in this discipline? Are any of these borrowed from another field?

Have each group report back to the larger group.