

## Evaluation questions

**1. Ask: What is the point of this essay? What is its thesis/conclusion? What am I being asked to accept or think?**

**2. Ask: What supports the thesis? What claims or evidence or considerations are used (as premises) to encourage me to accept the author's thesis? Do any of these claims need support (and, if so, is that support included)?**

**3. Ask: Has the author defined all his or her terms to your satisfaction? Are there other ways of defining those terms that would challenge the truth value of the thesis/conclusion?**

**4. Consider: How strong is the author's case (argument)? What considerations has the author left out or skimmed over that might qualify or undermine the truth of the thesis/conclusion?**

**5. Reflect: Is the author's conclusion relevant for every case of its kind? Does it generalize? Are there counterexamples or limitations?**

**6. Write: Summarize the author's argument, ignoring the examples, quotations, and extraneous material. Explain the strengths of the argument and what implications its conclusion has, if true or false. Conclude by explaining some potential problems for the argument and how they might be resolved.**