

I Small Group Exercise

- A. In your table groups, read out your assignment results for Exercise 1.1 #1 (descriptions of disagreements you have participated in).
- B. In your group, make a list of factors that either promote or hinder critical reasoning as described in the text. (Areas you might explore: manner in which views are expressed; relationship between participants, etc.) Decide on one or two factors that you think are the most important.
- C. Discuss your results for Exercise 1.2 #1 b and #1 d as well as #3. Try to decide on a consensus response.
- D. Plenary (full class) discussion

II. Review: Critical Reasoning as a two-step procedure

- 1)
- 2)

A Sample text: *We should continue the practice of plea bargaining in the criminal justice system, because if we eliminate this practice, then many more cases will go to trial. If this occurs, then an overwhelming burden will be placed on the criminal justice system.*

- A. **Individually**, fill in the other supporting reason(s) and the conclusion. For the sample argument, that is, RECONSTRUCT it by identify the position being supported and supporting reasons)

Supporting reasons:

Premise 1. *If we eliminate plea bargaining, then many more cases will go to trial.*

(Other Premise(s)

Position being supported:
(Conclusion)

- B Discuss your answer with your group.
- C. Plenary discussion of answers and how we might evaluate the supporting reasons

III Small Group

- A) Distribute the copies of your argumentative passage.
- B) Discuss each selection in turn.
 - a) Determine the main point. or conclusion
 - b) Determine the reasons offered in support of the conclusion.
 - c) If the passage contains an argument does it have independent premises or is it linked?



Critical Reasoning Assignment for Tuesday April 8: Read the rest of *Critical Reasoning*, Chapter 2 and work out Chapter 2 Exercise 2.1 even items. Review, and modify the results from the small group exercise **III** (or a substitute if you decide after small group discussion to find another selection). Submit a copy of the passage as well as your determination of the main point or conclusion as well as supporting reasons next Tuesday (4-8-08)

BRING YOUR CRITICAL REASONING AND ETHICS TEXTS TO ALL CLASS SESSIONS