

Critical Thinking Worksheets

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Below is a framework of questions that you can use to think critically when reading a text or considering a situation. These questions will help you explore the ideas, understand different perspectives, and reflect on possible solutions.

After reviewing the framework, try applying it to the scenario provided. Use the questions to guide your thinking and practice your critical thinking skills.

I. Read the passage below

Many schools are considering implementing shorter school days as a strategy to enhance students' overall well-being and academic performance. Advocates for this change argue that reducing the length of the school day would provide students with more time to rest, pursue extracurricular interests, and spend quality time with their families. They suggest that this additional personal time could result in improved mental health, greater happiness, and increased focus during classroom activities.

Conversely, critics express concerns about the potential consequences of shorter school days. A primary concern is the reduction in instructional time, which they believe might negatively impact students' ability to master key subjects and prepare for future academic or career opportunities. Furthermore, full-time working parents worry about the logistical challenges of arranging childcare for the additional hours children would spend at home. These contrasting viewpoints illustrate the complexity of the issue and underscore the importance of evaluating its potential benefits and drawbacks comprehensively.

II. Understanding the text

What is the main idea of the passage?

Write a couple of sentences that summarizes what the article is about.

What are the two sides of the argument?

Supporters believe:

Opponents believe:

What examples or evidence are provided to support each side?

Evidence for:

Evidence against:

III. Analyzing and interpreting

What do you think is the strongest argument made in the passage? Why?

What might be missing from the discussion?

Are there any other important points the author did not mention?

Do you notice any bias in the passage?

Does the writer seem to favor one side, or are they neutral? How can you tell?

IV. Applying critical thinking

What would you decide if you were in charge of making the decision?

Would you support shorter school days? Why or why not?

How could both sides work together to find a solution?

What kind of compromise could help both students and parents?

How does this issue connect to your own life?

Would a shorter school day affect you or your family? How?

Extra activity (Optional)

Write your own short paragraph presenting an idea for improving schools. Be sure to include at least one strong reason to support your idea and explain why it's important.

Notes