

UAPB Instructors,

The shift from assessing **Written Communication** and **Reading** to **Oral Communication** and **Critical Thinking** has occurred. During the 1617AY, we are assessing the latter two institutional Student Learning Outcomes. While Oral Communication is probably familiar to most instructors (it's what we all do in the classroom), Critical Thinking might be less familiar. We want to make resources available to instructors who might, for the first time, be formally addressing Critical Thinking in the classroom.

You should recall, from our Faculty/Staff Seminar, that **Bloom's Taxonomy** (especially the higher levels) is one method of encouraging students to think critically. Here is a link to information about using Bloom's Taxonomy for Critical Thinking.

<http://www.cambridge.org/elt/blog/2014/04/18/teaching-critical-thinking-using-blooms-taxonomy/>

There are other methods of teaching Critical Thinking. One of my personal favorites is **Richard Paul's Critical Thinking Wheel**. Here is a link to information about the Paul's Critical Thinking Wheel.

https://www.criticalthinking.org/files/Concepts_Tools.pdf

Clearly, the **Scientific Method** is another means of thinking critically about a problem or subject. Check out this link.

<http://oureverydaylife.com/relationship-between-scientific-method-critical-thinking-19049.html>

Last spring, I learned that **Argument Mapping** is being used across curricula at a few other institutions to teach Critical Thinking. Have a look at this website for information about Argument Mapping as a means of teaching Critical Thinking.

http://austhink.com/critical/pages/argument_mapping.html

Regardless of how you teach Critical Thinking, our students will benefit immensely by introducing and reinforcing this imperative skill across our curricula. If you have questions about Critical Thinking, or you are interested in professional development opportunities based around one of these methods, please contact the Office of Assessment. The institution is exploring the possibility of bringing speakers or workshops to our campus.

Thank you for being a part of assessment and continuous improvement,