



Critical Thinking Retreat

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Although culture might influence approaches to critical thinking we should avoid assigning homogenous characteristics to groups of students.

(Pu & Evans 2019)





Our goals for the project

Move beyond **cultural stereotypes** and assumptions.

Develop **metacognitive knowledge** about critical thinking and **positioning**.

Understand these through **situated materials**.

Understand usefulness of approach for students.



A postgraduate thesis... can be understood as 'a form of tacit and intentional positioning of the authors'.

To demonstrate CT in a thesis, in its literature review chapter for instance, not only involves applying CT skills to a collection of written materials, but also entails **positioning** oneself among a group of authors who are **established** members of the **academic** community.



Student

Wanted to be 'taught'.
Academic staff were holders
of knowledge.

Practitioner

The end goal was to gain an
award to pursue a career

Researcher

Viewed themselves as
responsible for knowledge
acquisition

Positioning
might
influence
the
approach to
critical
thinking

(Pu & Evans 2019)



Where do
you position
yourself
within the
academic
community?





“Authentic” videos created to show different positionings in relation to critical thinking.



Four weeks of workshop materials (1 hour each).
Covering positioning & critical thinking, critical reading,
critical writing and application to dissertation.



Use of first language materials to learn and then transfer to
English language materials.



Retreat was four weeks with independent learning and peer-led discussion:

1

- Activities posted on Teams for students to complete independently.

2

- One-hour online meeting each week to discuss with peers.

3

- After the meeting, students complete reflective questionnaire.



The University of Edinburgh

Workshop Task

Why choose Edinburgh?

We are globally recognised for our research, developing students with world-class teaching for more than 400 years.

An Edinburgh degree works for you.





Watch two excerpts from the videos that were shown to students:

Video A to 3.23

Video C to 5.00

Work through questions from week one of the retreat.

Feedback session to consider the following:

- To what extent was the material in the video relevant to being able to identify positioning?
- How useful and/or relevant is the concept of positioning in supporting critical thinking?
- To what extent might this be used across different discipline areas?