

The following basic critical thinking concepts have been introduced:

- The central [assumption](#) of critical thinking is that we can figure things out.
- This in turn is based on the assumption that we can form an accurate conception of things.
- To form an accurate [conception](#) of a thing, we have to connect together a number of ideas.
- In doing this, we find that we are bound by standards essential to our task.
- In other words, we find that if we truly want to figure something out, we have to engage in a disciplined process.
- Clarifying meaning, and usage, is a practice rooted in the [elements of thought](#).

### Assignment: Logic of Words

1. Get into pairs
2. Pick word pairs from the list below. You don't have to go straight down the list. Pick pairs that are interesting to you. Fill in the blanks as appropriate. When you're done with one pair, move on to another. Continue until the instructor brings the class back together.
3. Do more than fill in one word for each blank. Brain storm a bit and see if there is more to it than what first occurred to you. (This encourages analysis, rather than simple reaction.)
4. Please do not use a dictionary for this exercise (even though this goes against the advice you'd normally receive). If you have no idea what a word means, skip it. Go to the next one.

“If I say of someone that he or she is \_\_\_\_\_, I imply \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, if I say of someone that he or she is \_\_\_\_\_, I imply \_\_\_\_\_.”

terrorist vs. freedom-fighter  
having judgment vs. being judgmental  
having information vs. having knowledge  
a citizen vs. a resident  
having faith vs. being gullible  
mature vs. an adult  
being flexible vs. being plastic  
a need vs. a desire  
a right vs. a want  
believing vs. knowing  
able to prove vs. able to persuade  
disagreeing vs. intolerant  
has a degree vs. educated  
a democrat vs. a Democrat  
a liberal vs. liberal

selfish vs. self-interested  
admiring vs. envious  
knowledgeable vs. insightful  
happy vs. joyful  
reasonable vs. unfeeling  
emotional vs. energetic  
proud vs. boastful  
arguing vs. disputing  
loving vs. desiring  
knowledgeable vs. wise  
honest vs. accurate  
superstitious vs. religious  
a good conversationalist vs. a chatterbox  
a liberal vs. a conservative  
giving honor vs. giving flattery