

Section 1:

#1 Imagine this: You're scrolling through social media, and a post flashes across your screen. It's sensational, it's divisive, and it immediately ignites a spark of reaction within you. In a world where 95% of our teenagers actively navigate the digital currents of social media, and where deepfakes, deception, and manipulation lurk beneath the surface, it's all too easy to find ourselves adrift on a sea of half-truths.

Strengths:

- You've created a vivid opening scenario that readers can immediately relate to
- Your use of statistics (95% of teenagers) adds credibility to your argument

Weakness: Underdeveloped connection to critical thinking → While you effectively set up the problem of misinformation, you don't clearly establish how this connects to critical thinking until much later. The transition from describing the problem to introducing your main topic feels abrupt. For example, when you write "But we don't need to be helpless sailors; we don't need to be swept away. This won't happen if we have.... Critical Thinking!" the introduction of your main topic feels sudden.

Exemplar: *But we don't need to be helpless sailors adrift on this digital ocean. By developing our critical thinking skills—our ability to question, analyse and evaluate information—we can navigate these waters safely. Critical thinking serves as our compass in this vast sea of information.*

#2 Critical thinking also means knowing what is right, what currents to ride, and which treacherous eddies to avoid. Consider the everyday choices we face. Most of those are guided by what we find ethical and true.

Strengths:

- You effectively continue your ocean metaphor which creates cohesion
- You bring the concept down to everyday situations which makes it relatable

Weakness: Limited examples → Your paragraph mentions "everyday choices" but only provides one specific example (the flood scenario). This limits the impact of your argument as readers might not see how critical thinking applies across different situations. The flood example is helpful, but more varied examples would strengthen your message.

Exemplar: *Critical thinking guides us through countless everyday situations. When choosing which news sources to trust, which products to buy based on advertisements, or which career path to follow, our ability to question and evaluate information determines the quality of our decisions.*

#3 So, let us question. Let us evaluate. Let us know. For in questioning, we find clarity. In evaluating, we find truth. In knowing, we find our way forward.

Strengths:

- Your conclusion has a powerful, memorable rhythm through repetition
- You successfully bring closure to your ocean/navigation metaphor

Weakness: Missing action steps → Your conclusion effectively summarises your message but doesn't provide readers with specific ways to develop critical thinking skills. After convincing readers of the importance of critical thinking, they may be left wondering, "How do I improve this skill?" Without practical steps, your message might not lead to actual change.

Exemplar: *So, let us question by asking "How do I know this is true?" Let us evaluate by seeking multiple perspectives. Let us know by practising these skills daily. For in questioning, we develop discernment. In evaluating, we uncover truth. In knowing and applying these skills, we navigate wisely through our information-rich world.*

■ Your speech has a compelling central message about the importance of critical thinking in today's digital world. The ocean navigation metaphor works well throughout your piece, creating a cohesive framework for your ideas. To improve the content, try developing a clearer structure with distinct sections that explore different aspects of critical thinking. For example, you could have sections on recognising fake news, understanding personal bias, and applying critical thinking to everyday decisions. Additionally, you might strengthen your argument by including more varied, concrete examples that show critical thinking in action. Your writing would also benefit from more specific tools or techniques that listeners can use to improve their critical thinking skills. Also, consider adding a brief story or personal experience where critical thinking made a difference, as this would make your message more memorable and relatable. A stronger call to action at the end would help motivate your audience to apply what they've learned.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2:

Good morning, everyone.

Imagine this: You're scrolling through social media, and a post flashes across your screen. It's sensational, it's divisive, and it immediately ignites a spark of reaction within you. In a world where 95% of our teenagers actively navigate the digital currents of social media, and where deepfakes, deception, and manipulation lurk beneath the surface, it's all too easy to find ourselves adrift on a sea of half-truths. Social media, like an unseen tide, can pull at our every move, influence our every choice

and ~~perceive~~ [perceive] our current reality. But we don't need to be helpless sailors; we don't need to be swept away. This won't happen if we have.... Critical Thinking! #1

And as we, the sailors of this vast digital ocean, embark on our daily voyages, how do we distinguish between the pirate ships of misinformation and the kind travelers bearing genuine insights? I want to talk about something profoundly important for us, as humans, navigating the complexities of our world: the impact of critical thinking in judging right from wrong. Without the sturdy compass of critical thinking, it's all too easy to lose our bearing, to accept narratives at face value, and to make decisions that, upon reflection, might lead us far from our true values.

Think about it. Critical thinking isn't just about solving complex math problems or acing a debate. It's about questioning assumptions, evaluating evidence, considering different perspectives, and ~~recognising~~ [recognising] biases – both in others and, importantly, in ourselves. It's about developing the mental muscle to ~~seperating~~ [separate] right from wrong. ~~Are we to be passive passengers on this digital voyage, or master navigators of our own intellectual destiny?~~ [Will we remain passive passengers on this digital voyage, or become master navigators of our own intellectual destiny?]

Critical thinking also means knowing what is right, what currents to ride, and which treacherous eddies to avoid. Consider the everyday choices we face. Most of those are guided by what we find ethical and true. For example, online, we might see a headline screaming about a local flood, urging us to stay indoors. Instead of blindly trusting the first digital voice, assuming 'if it's on social media, it must be wrong,' we must engage our critical thinking. We must apply our own reasoned judgment, informed by diverse sources, to make a truly educated decision. Should I follow the crowd even when my gut tells me it's not right? Should I believe every piece of information presented to me online, or should I take a moment to research its credibility? These are not trivial decisions. Each one charts a course for who we are becoming and the kind of world we are helping to create #2

So, let us question. Let us evaluate. Let us know. For in questioning, we find clarity. In evaluating, we find truth. In knowing, we find our way forward. #3

Thank You]