

**IDEALS Critical Thinking Method**

IDEALS encourages the student to be purposeful, reasonable, and goal oriented in thinking in order to make decisions, formulate inferences, and solve problems.

**Identify**

Identify the problem

***What is the real question/problem?***

Clearly identify all components of the problem

**Define**

Define the context

***What are the relevant facts and circumstances that frame this problem?***

Brainstorm possible solutions to the problem

**Enumerate**

Enumerate the choices

***What are the most plausible options?***

Evaluate the viability of each solution

**Analyze**

Analyze Options

***What is the best course of actions?***

Make a list of pros and cons of each solution

**List**

List reasons explicitly

***Why is this the best course of action?***

Choose the solution that potentially works the best

**Self-Correct**

***Look at it again… What did I miss?***

Evaluate the solution after it is in place

Image source: <https://tinyurl.com/yd5cvq8y>