

# Section 1E

## Critical Thinking in Everyday Life

# Hints

## 1. **Read (or listen) carefully.**

- Make sure that you have grasped exactly what was said.
- Make sure you have distinguished between what was actually said, what was assumed, and what must be determined

## 2. **Look for hidden assumptions.**

- In real arguments, there are not always clear premises, sometimes they rely on ambiguous terms or hidden assumptions.
- The writer may think these are “obvious,” but the reader may not agree.

# Hints

## **3. Identify the real issue.**

- can sometimes be hard to do, especially if the people involved are trying to hide their true intentions
- If you analyze the argument, you should be able to determine whether the real issue is hidden, even if you don't know exactly what it is.

## **4. Understand all the options.**

- understand what effects each option would have

# Hints

## 5. **Watch for fine print and missing information.**

- What looks like a great deal without the fine print may be a poor one with it.
- Sometimes the fine print doesn't always state important information.
- Use critical thinking to decide if information is missing and be sure to ask *before* you act.

## 6. **Are other conclusions possible?**

- Even if an argument proves its conclusion, it's still possible that there are other conclusions that have not been stated.

# Hints

## 7. **Don't miss the big picture.**

- You need to focus on details, but don't lose sight of the overall idea.
- Step back as you consider the details so that you see the big picture also.