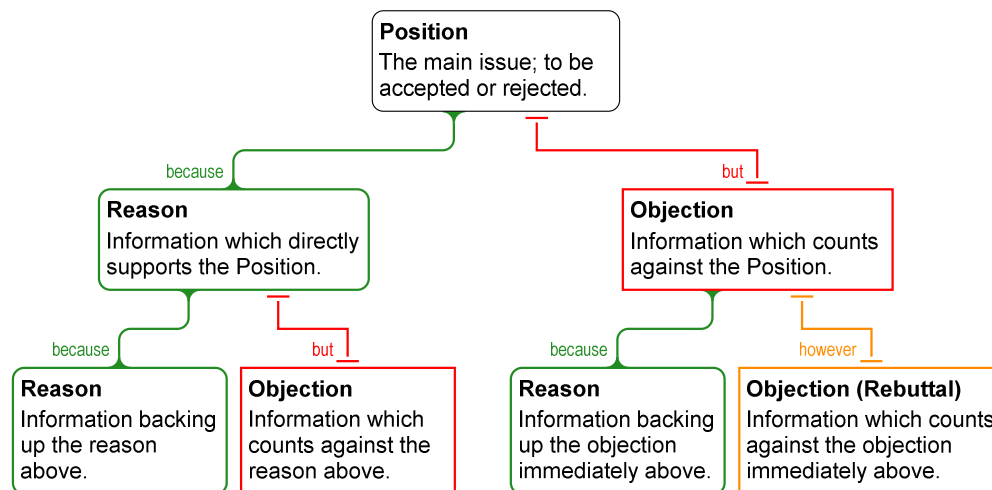


## Critical Thinking with Rationale®

Rationale is a program to develop and enhance critical thinking. It visually displays and scaffolds the thinking process, empowering teachers to monitor and assess their students' thinking processes. Rationale provides the tool for students to:

- organize their thoughts
- structure their reasoning by making Argument Maps
- identify and assess sources of information
- analyze claims and uncover assumptions
- evaluate arguments, and
- communicate in a clear and systematic manner (particularly essays).



Research undertaken at The University of Melbourne demonstrated that students using **argument mapping improved their critical thinking skills 4 times more than regular university students** and at least 2 times as much as students taking traditional critical thinking courses.

Critical Thinking Skills provides educators a complete methodology **Critical Thinking with Rationale (CTwR)** to integrate critical thinking in a whole curriculum: a book, guides, lessons, practical classroom resources, student exercise sets and ongoing support.

The methodology is applicable for all stages of learning and for self study.

## ASPIRE – Elements of CTwR

Reflects the student's ability to...		Related terms
<b>A</b> <b>Advocate</b>	Clearly and effectively advocate a position or advance the position/s of others.	Argue Advance Persuade Select Conclusive Discuss Analyze
<b>S</b> <b>Structure</b>	Logically structure claims or ideas to illustrate the relationship to other claims or ideas.	Classify Abstract Hierarchical Group Organize
<b>P</b> <b>Present</b>	Transfer the mapping skills to an oral presentation, report or essay.	Report Essay Write Communicate
<b>I</b> <b>Inform</b>	Be selective in the choice and range of information utilized.	Select Question Collate Organize Inquire Judge Collect
<b>R</b> <b>Refine</b>	Refine claims such that they are both clear to an audience and appropriate for the task of evaluation.	Simplify Clarify Declare Literal Precise Concise Unambiguous Emotionally measured
<b>E</b> <b>Evaluate</b>	Assess claims with respect to their truth and to their level of support they achieve for other claims.	Justify Judge Conclude Determine Consider Reflect