

# DEVIL'S ADVOCATE

## Component: Critical Thinking

ILO: To encourage confidence in critical-thinking skills



### TOOL

To help students gain confidence in critical thinking the teacher states a view and encourages students to challenge it. This forms a kind of debate with the teacher playing Devil's advocate to the students' arguments.

### ACTIVITY

Choose a subject relevant to your module learning. This could be a contentious issue where there is no clear, correct answer.

The teacher makes a statement and asks students to form a critical argument against it.

The teacher encourages the discussion with additional questions, challenging and leading the students deeper into analysis and evaluation of the subject.

### HOW

You may wish to use the READ Backwards TLA first to set up what is expected in Critical Thinking.

### EXAMPLE

After looking at sales figures in the recording industry you may wish students to discuss a topic such as "why vinyl is dead".

### LARGE GROUP TEACHING

You could write your argument down and have small groups discussing it. Each group could have a different subject to critique.

### SUCCESS

Students are confident in thinking around a subject and forming a critique of it.

### NEXT STEPS

You may wish to look at more complex/nuanced debates as students become more confident.