

Critical Thinking Questions Assignment

Background

While Dr. Seuss is most often viewed as a children's author, his stories typically have an underlying message—usually about something that people could or should do. Even *Green Eggs and Ham* was useful in helping children learn to “try” a food before refusing to eat it outright.

In Dr. Seuss' *The Zax*, the north-going Zax and the south-going Zax are walking along, minding their own business, and then suddenly bump into each other. What happens next is your job to uncover. Please read the following instructions carefully to ensure you follow all the specified guidelines.

Your Assignment Instructions

Using the information covered in the Conflict Resolution section of the course material as a foundation, please complete the sections below (A through E). Type your responses in a Word document and add to that document as you go through this assignment.

A. Introductory Questions

Please respond to the following opinion questions:

1. Who is Dr. Seuss?
2. What do you remember about his stories?
3. Which was your favorite? Why?

B. Definitions

Please define the following terms (you can use www.Dictionary.com via this link):

1. Stubborn-
2. Rigid-
3. Inflexible-
4. Flexible-
5. Open-Minded-

C. The Zax

Watch Dr. Seuss' "[The Zax](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZmZzGxGpSs)" (via this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dZmZzGxGpSs>)

After viewing the video, type your responses to the following to identify the message of the story:

1. Why did Dr. Seuss write this story?
2. What lesson(s) was he trying to teach?
3. Do you agree with the actions of the Zax?

D. Literal vs. Critical-Thinking Questions

Please read the full text of "The Zax" by Dr. Seuss (copy attached) and answer the following questions. If necessary, use the Internet to find the differences between a literal question and a critical thinking question.

<i>Literal Questions</i>		<i>Critical Thinking</i>	
1.	In which directions were the Zax traveling?	1.	Rather than refusing to move, what tricks could the North-Going Zax have used to outsmart the South-Going Zax?
2.	What structures were built while the Zax argued?	2.	What would have happened if one of the Zax had moved?
3.	What did the South-Going Zax learn in school?	3.	The South-Going Zax said that when he was in school, he was taught not to budge. Do you think his teachers would be proud of his refusal to move for the North-Going Zax? Please explain.
4.	How long did the Zax say they could stand without budging?	4.	Which of the Zax should move? Why?
5.	How did the landscape change while the Zax argued?	5.	What did the Zax gain by refusing to budge? What did the Zax lose by refusing to budge?

E. Self-reflection

Please type your responses to the following questions:

1. Describe a time you have encountered people who acted like those in *The Zax*.
2. If appropriate, describe a time when you acted in a similar fashion to those in *The Zax*.
3. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of stubbornness versus flexibility.
4. How can this story assist you in your future career?

Submit your typed responses for this assignment as your instructor specified.

Grading: Instructors may choose how they wish to grade this assignment based on the way in which it is used in their respective courses.

