Critical Questions

There are two types of critical questions, practical questions and focusing questions.

Practical questions:

- Do I understand the task/question? (if not, talk to your lecturer/tutor or a learning adviser)
- How does this link with what we have seen in class?
- Why have the lecturers asked this question (what do they want me to learn)?
- What type of assignment is this, and how do I need to use my information?

Focusing questions:

- What are the key theories we have covered in class? How can I use them?
- How does this journal article/book chapter/web page fit with everything else I have read?
- Is there any controversy or major disagreements?
- What information can I find (in a journal/book/website), and what will I need to extrapolate for myself?

100 Questions

Do you know what you don't know?

Before you sit down to do some serious research, ask yourself some questions about the thing you're researching.

Lots of questions. As many as you can think of.

The 100 Questions technique involves asking / writing down / thinking about as many questions as you possibly can, so that you will notice the answers when you find them.

Later, when you do notice the answer, note who was talking about it (it will make it easier to find it again later, and it will help with referencing).