

Critical Thinking

WCC Definition: Critical Thinking is habit of mind characterized by the thorough analysis of issues, ideas, artifacts, information or events to construct an argument or a solution.

WCC Outcome: Analyze information in order to construct an argument or solution.

(R): Reinforcing (I/R): Introducing and Reinforcing (I): Introducing

<i>Critical Thinking</i>	Proficient (R) 4	Progressing (I/R) 3	Beginning (I) 2	Entry (I) 1
Explanation of Issues	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated, described, and clarified so that understanding is clear.	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated and described but leaves some terms unclear.	Issue/problem to be considered critically is stated without clarification or description.	Issue/problem to be considered is not stated.
Evidence <i>Selecting and using information to investigate a point of view or conclusion.</i>	Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are subject to questioning.	Information is taken from source(s) with some interpretation/evaluation, but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Viewpoints of experts are taken as mostly fact, with little questioning.	Information is taken from source(s) without any interpretation/evaluation. Viewpoints of experts are taken as fact, without question.	Information is not taken from source(s) and viewpoints of experts are not considered.
Influence of Context and Assumptions	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position/solution.	Identifies own and some assumptions of others. Identifies some relevant contexts when presenting a position/solution.	Shows an emerging awareness of present assumptions (sometimes labels assertions as assumptions). Begins to present a position/solution with only one context.	Assumptions and contexts are not identified.
Student's Position/Solution <i>(perspective, thesis/hypothesis)</i>	Determines specific position/solution taking into account the complexities of an issue while acknowledging other viewpoints.	Determines specific position/solution acknowledging different sides of an issue.	Identifies specific position/solution with simplistic and obvious points	Specific position/solution is not stated.

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Conclusions and Related Outcomes <i>(implications and consequences)</i>	Conclusion is logically tied to a range of information including opposing viewpoints; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is logically tied to information (because information is chosen to fit the desired conclusion); some related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed; related outcomes (consequences and implications) are not clearly explained.	Conclusion is not tied to information discussed and related outcomes are not explained.