

Assessment Rubric for Critical Thinking

Intended Outcome: The student will demonstrate the skills necessary for analysis, synthesis, and evaluation.

Criteria	4 Exemplary	3 Satisfactory	2 Beginning	1 Insufficient	Score
Identifies relevant unexplained data, argument(s) or problem(s). The elements of an argument are reasons, conclusions and any relevant assumptions.	Identifies all relevant unexplained data, argument(s) or problem(s) precisely and accurately.	Identifies most relevant unexplained data, arguments(s) or problem(s) precisely and accurately.	Relevant unexplained data, argument(s) or problem(s) are not clearly or only partially identified.	Fails to identify or misidentifies relevant unexplained data, argument(s) or problem(s).	
Draws warranted conclusion(s) from data, or about the argument(s), or finds appropriate solution(s) to the problem(s).	Draws valid or probable conclusion(s), or finds a creative or thoughtful solution(s) to the problem(s).	Mostly draws valid or probable conclusion(s), or finds only possible solution(s) to the problem(s).	Inconsistently draws valid or probable conclusions, or finds only partial solution(s) to the problem(s).	Draws only invalid, improbable or no conclusions, or finds either inadequate or no solution(s) to the problem(s).	
Justifies the warranted conclusions or aptness of the solution(s) through giving supporting evidence and/or statements.	Rigorously and consistently justifies the conclusions or aptness of the solution(s) through giving supporting evidence and/or statements.	Largely justifies the conclusions or aptness of the solution(s) through giving supporting evidence and/or statements.	Offers only limited, partial, or inconsistent supporting evidence and/or statements for the conclusion(s) or solution(s).	Offers little to no supporting evidence and/or statements for the conclusion(s) or solution(s).	

Suggested Assignments:

An appropriate assignment (e.g., research paper, project, problem-solving or data-collection assignment) would allow students to demonstrate critical thinking skills by asking them to do the following:

1. Identifies an issue or problem.
2. Reviews information about the issue or problem.
3. Analyzes and evaluates information.
4. Draws conclusions.

Student work *best suited* for evaluation would require the student to identify and state a problem, develop possible solution(s) to the problem, and evaluate and apply selected solutions. The ideal assignment is one which provides an opportunity for the student to articulate a problem to be solved through critical thinking skills.