

DRAFT: Think Critically
 (Intellectual/Synthesizing Mind)
 Grades – K-12

Critical thinking: that mode of thinking about any subject, content, or problem in which the thinker improves the quality of his or her thinking by skillfully analyzing, assessing, and reconstructing it.

	Emerging Needs direct support to engage in critical thinking tasks.	Developing Needs some support and guidance to engage in critical thinking tasks.	Applying Needs minimal support or independently engages in critical thinking tasks.
Analyzes and evaluates information and ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asks literal questions • identifies the main issue or idea inaccurately • re-states another’s point of view 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asks questions that require explanations • identifies the main issue or idea • states a personal point of view with a simple explanation • demonstrates a willingness to consider new ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asks questions that require thoughtful answers to build deeper understanding • identifies the main issue or idea and supports thinking with evidence • states a personal point of view and can support it with reasoning and evidence • uses new ideas or points of view to confirm or transform thinking
Engages in reasoned problem solving and decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • has difficulty recognizing and defining the parts a problem or issue • makes quick decisions without considering options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • can recognize the basics of a problem or issue • is able to offer solutions with simple explanations • makes decisions after considering options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clearly describes a problem or issue with details and supporting information • is able to evaluate solutions with explanations and evidence • makes informed decisions and can evaluate options and possible outcomes