

CRITICAL THINKING VALUE RUBRIC

Adapted for Texarkana College from the AAC&U Critical Thinking VALUE Rubric

Definition

Critical thinking is a habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.

	Does Not Meet Any Expectations 1	Meets Few Expectations 2	Meets Expectations 3	Exceeds Some Expectations 4	Exceeds All Expectations 5
Explanation of Issues	Did not state issue.	Issue is stated without clarification or description.	Issue is stated but description leaves some terms undefined, ambiguities unexplored, boundaries undetermined and/or backgrounds unknown.	Issue is stated, described, and clarified so that understanding is not seriously impeded by omissions.	Issue is stated clearly and described comprehensively, delivering all relevant information necessary for full understanding.
Evidence	Does not identify the basic components of an issue	Information is taken from sources without any interpretation. Viewpoints of experts are taken as fact, without question	Information is taken from sources with some interpretation but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis.	Information is taken from sources with enough interpretation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis.	Information is taken from sources with enough interpretation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis.
Influence of Context and Assumptions	Did not show awareness of the issue.	Show an emerging awareness of present assumptions.	Questions some assumptions. Identifies relevant information when presenting a position.	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Thoroughly analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.
Student's Position	Takes no position on issue	Specific position is stated but is simplistic and obvious.	Specific position acknowledges different sides of an issue.	Specific position takes into account the complexities of an issue. Others' points of view are acknowledged within position.	Specific position is imaginative. Limits of position acknowledged. Other points of view are synthesized.
Conclusions and Related Outcomes	Does not use previously learned information in new situations.	Conclusion is inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed; related outcomes are oversimplified.	Conclusion is logically tied to information; some related outcomes are identified.	Conclusion is logically tied to a range of information, including opposing viewpoints; related outcomes are identified clearly	Conclusions and related outcomes are logical and reflect student's informed evaluation and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order