
Critical Thinking

Definition

Ability to look at situations from multiple perspectives. Breaks problems into component parts. Tendency or ability of individual to do something or create something new. Considers and organizes parts in a systematic way. Creates solutions to problems using novel methods and processes. Looks for underlying causes or thinks through the consequences of different courses of action

Key Words: Actively and skillfully conceptualizing, Synthesizing, Reasoning

Behavioral Indicator:

1. Demonstrates and models the use of higher-order thinking skills
2. Creates solutions to problems using novel methods and processes.
3. Issues are viewed without any pre-set biases or limitations

PROFICIENCY LEVEL: Critical Thinking

Level I

- Generates simple ideas
- Solutions are limited in scope
- May produce useful ideas or explanations for circumstances but lack in identifying or including cause and effect.
- Undertakes a complex task by breaking it down into manageable parts in a systemic, detailed way.

Level II

- Introduces new approaches that may have been tried elsewhere.
- Examines situations from multiple or different perspectives.
- Recognizes points for improvement and uses imagination to solve problems
- Critically compare different points of view
- Identifies linkage of actions to achieving outcomes.

Level III

- Applies formal methods and strategies to enhance creative thought
 - Evaluates the quality of evidence and reasoning
 - Effectively analyzes the situation, collects input to make informed decision
 - Demonstrates critical thinking skills while considering the big picture and impact on results.
 - Demonstrates in-depth knowledge of the holistic framework that component parts of a system can be understood in the context of relationships with others within the University rather than in isolation.
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