

**Thinks Critically**  
Approved 5/2012; Modified and Approved 10/2014

*The critical thinker uses reason, ingenuity, and knowledge to examine relevant issues or ideas and solve problems. The learner:*

<b>Performance Indicators</b>	<b>Capstone (4)</b>	<b>Milestone (3)</b>	<b>Milestone (2)</b>	<b>Benchmark (1)</b>
(4) Identifies an issue or idea	<p>Identifies a creative, focused, and manageable topic</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Issue/idea is stated clearly, delivering all relevant information necessary for full understanding</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Constructs a clear and insightful statement with evidence of all relevant contextual factors</p>	<p>Identifies a focused and manageable topic</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Issue/idea is stated and clarified so that understanding is not seriously impeded by missing or irrelevant information</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Constructs a statement with evidence of most relevant contextual factors, and statement is adequately detailed</p>	<p>Identifies a topic that while manageable, is too narrowly focused and leaves out relevant aspects of the topic</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Issue/idea is stated but some concepts are undefined, ambiguous, irrelevant, or underdeveloped</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Constructs a statement with evidence of most relevant contextual factors, but statement is superficial</p>	<p>Identifies a topic that is far too general and wide-ranging as to be manageable</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Issue/idea is poorly stated without clarification</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Limited ability in identifying a statement or related contextual factors</p>
(5) Explores perspectives relevant to an issue or idea	<p>Synthesizes in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/approaches</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Explores and elaborates on perspectives that impact the issue/idea</p>	<p>Presents in-depth information from relevant sources representing various points of view/approaches</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/evaluation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Explores perspectives that impact the issue/idea</p>	<p>Presents information from relevant sources representing limited points of view/approaches</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Information is taken from source(s) with some interpretation/evaluation, but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Briefly identifies perspectives that impact the issue/idea</p>	<p>Presents information from irrelevant sources representing limited points of view/approaches</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Information is taken from source(s) without any interpretation or evaluation</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Does not consider perspectives that impact the issue/idea</p>

(6a) Identifies options or positions	Identifies insightful patterns, differences, or similarities related to option(s)/position(s)	Identifies important patterns, differences, or similarities related to option(s)/position(s)	Important patterns, differences, or similarities related to option(s)/position(s) are not effectively identified	Important patterns, differences, or similarities related to option(s)/position(s) are not identified
(6b) Critiques options or positions	<p>Thoroughly analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance and contexts when presenting a position</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Thoroughly addresses relevant options or positions related to the issue/idea, providing rationale for each option or position</p>	<p>Identifies own and others' assumptions and relevant contexts when presenting a position.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Addresses relevant options or positions related to the issue/idea, providing rationale for each option or position</p>	<p>Questions some assumptions. Identifies some relevant contexts when presenting a position.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Minimally addresses relevant options, positions, and/or rationale</p>	<p>Does not identify and/or evaluate assumptions. Does not consider contexts.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Lack of identification, critique and/or rationale for each option or position, or identification of inaccurate or irrelevant options or positions</p>
(7) Selects an option or position	Selects an option and/or position			Does not select an option and/or position
(8a) Implements a selected option or position	Implements the solution in a thorough manner that addresses multiple contextual factors of the problem.	Implements the solution in a manner that addresses multiple contextual factors of the problem in a surface manner.	Implements the solution in a manner that addresses the problem statement but ignores relevant contextual factors.	Implements the solution in a manner that does not directly address the problem statement.
(8b) Reflects on a selected option or position.	<p>Insightfully discusses relevant limitations and implications.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Conclusions are logical and demonstrate thorough reflection on related outcomes and/or implications.</p>	<p>Discusses relevant limitations and implications.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Conclusions are mostly logical and demonstrate adequate reflection on related outcomes and/or implications .</p>	<p>Identifies relevant limitations and implications.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Conclusions based on flawed logic leading to misguided reflection.</p>	<p>Does not identify limitations and implications, or they are irrelevant.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>- OR -</b></p> <p>Conclusions are illogical, with minimal or no reflection.</p>