

The Critical Thinking Rubric

1) Identifies and summarizes the **problem/question** at issue (and/or the source's position).

Emerging

Does not identify and summarize the problem, is confused or identifies a different and inappropriate problem.

Does not identify or is confused by the issue, or represents the issue inaccurately.

Mastering

Identifies the main problem and subsidiary, embedded, or implicit aspects of the problem, and identifies them clearly, addressing their relationships to each other.

Identifies not only the basics of the issue, but recognizes nuances of the issue.

2) Identifies and presents the STUDENT'S OWN **hypothesis, perspective and position** as it is important to the analysis of the issue.

Emerging

Addresses a single source or view of the argument and fails to clarify the established or presented position relative to one's own. Fails to establish other critical distinctions.

Mastering

Identifies, appropriately, one's own position on the issue, drawing support from experience, and information not available from assigned sources.

3) Identifies and considers OTHER salient **perspectives and positions** that are important to the analysis.

Emerging

Deals only with a single perspective and fails to discuss other possible perspectives, especially those salient to the issue.

Mastering

Addresses perspectives noted previously, and additional diverse perspectives drawn from outside information.

4) Identifies and assesses the key **assumptions**.

Emerging

Does not surface the assumptions and ethical issues that underlie the issue, or does so superficially.

Mastering

Identifies and questions the validity of the assumptions and addresses the ethical dimensions that underlie the issue.

5) Identifies and assesses the quality of **supporting data/evidence** and provides additional data/evidence related to the issue.

Emerging

Merely repeats information provided, taking it as truth, or denies evidence without adequate justification. Confuses associations and correlations with cause and effect.

Does not distinguish between fact, opinion, and value judgments.

Mastering

Examines the evidence and source of evidence; questions its accuracy, precision, relevance, completeness.

Observes cause and effect and addresses existing or potential consequences.

Clearly distinguishes between fact, opinion, & acknowledges value judgments.

6) Identifies and considers the influence of the **context** * on the issue.

Emerging

Discusses the problem only in egocentric or

Mastering

Analyzes the issue with a clear sense of scope and

sociocentric terms.

context, including an assessment of the audience of the analysis.

Does not present the problem as having connections to other contexts-cultural, political, etc.

Considers other pertinent contexts.

7) Identifies and assesses **conclusions, implications and consequences**.

Emerging

Fails to identify conclusions, implications, and consequences of the issue or the key relationships between the other elements of the problem, such as context, implications, assumptions, or data and evidence.

Mastering

Identifies and discusses conclusions, implications, and consequences considering context, assumptions, data, and evidence.

Objectively reflects upon the their own assertions.

Contexts for Consideration

1. **Cultural/Social**
Group, national, ethnic behavior/attitude
2. **Scientific**
Conceptual, basic science, scientific method
3. **Educational**
Schooling, formal training
4. **Economic**
Trade, business concerns costs
5. **Technological**
Applied science, engineering
6. **Ethical**
Values
7. **Political**
Organizational or governmental
8. **Personal Experience**
Personal observation, informal character