

## College Competency – Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

An iterative, dynamic process through which students formulate questions, define problems, become aware of biases and assumptions of self and others, evaluate arguments from multiple, contradictory sources, and synthesize pertinent information. Through this process students can positively impact decision making to address needs in a real-world context.

Key Performance Indicator	Emergent	Proficient	Accomplished
<b>Critical Thinking</b>			
<b>Identifies and explains the issue(s)/problem(s)</b>	<p>Identifies issue(s) to be considered critically but without clarification or description.</p> <p>Supporting information is not offered or information offered is not relevant to the issue.</p>	<p>Identifies, describes and clarifies issue(s) to be considered critically.</p> <p>Offers supporting information that is relevant and demonstrates comprehension of the issue and its importance.</p>	<p>States and describes issue(s) to be considered critically, both clearly and comprehensively.</p> <p>Offers substantive information that is relevant and demonstrates complex understanding of the issue, its importance and any competing viewpoints.</p>
<b>Uses evidence</b>	<p>Evidence is taken from source(s) without any interpretation/evaluation.</p> <p>Viewpoints of experts are taken as mostly fact, with little or no questioning.</p>	<p>Develops a coherent analysis or synthesis with sufficient interpretation/evaluation of evidence taken from source(s).</p> <p>Viewpoints of experts are subject to questioning.</p>	<p>Develops a comprehensive analysis or synthesis through with substantive interpretation/evaluation of evidence taken from source(s).</p> <p>Viewpoints of experts are questioned thoroughly.</p>



<p><b>Analyzes context and assumptions</b></p>	<p>Shows an emerging awareness of present assumptions (sometimes labels assertions as assumptions.)</p> <p>Begins to identify some contexts when presenting a position on the issue(s).</p>	<p>Identifies own and acknowledges others' assumptions about the issue(s).</p> <p>Provides some relevant contexts when presenting a position on the issue(s).</p>	<p>Systematically and methodically analyzes own and others' assumptions about the issue(s).</p> <p>Carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.</p>
<p><b>Develops a position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis)</b></p>	<p>States a simplistic position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) on the issue/problem.</p>	<p>States a specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) that takes into account complexities of an issue/problem; acknowledges others' points of view and different sides of an issue.</p>	<p>States a specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) that takes into account complexities of an issue; acknowledges limits of their position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis); synthesizes other's points of view within their position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis).</p>
<p><b>Understands Global Systems</b></p>	<p>Draws conclusions that are inconsistently tied to some of the information discussed</p> <p>Simplifies related outcomes (consequences &amp; implications).</p>	<p>Draws conclusions that are logically tied to a range of information, including opposing viewpoints.</p> <p>Clearly identifies related outcomes (consequences &amp; implications).</p>	<p>Draws conclusions and related outcomes (consequences &amp; implications) that are logical and reflect an informed evaluation</p> <p>Places evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order.</p>
<p><b>Problem Solving</b></p>			
<p><b>Defines a problem</b></p>	<p>Identifies a problem statement in a limited manner with little reference to related contextual factors.</p>	<p>Constructs a problem statement with adequate detail; provides some of most relevant contextual information.</p>	<p>Constructs a clear and insightful problem statement; provides substantial and relevant contextual information.</p>



<b>Identifies strategies</b>	Identifies one or more approaches for solving the problem without consideration of the specific context.	Identifies multiple approaches, only some with consideration of the specific context.	Identifies multiple approaches for solving the problem with considerable consideration of the specific context.
<b>Proposes solutions/hypotheses</b>	Proposes a solution/hypothesis that is difficult to evaluate because it is vague or only indirectly addresses the problem statement.	Proposes one or more solutions/hypotheses that indicates comprehension of the problem; solutions/hypotheses are sensitive to contextual factors as well as one of the following: ethical, logical, or cultural dimensions of the problem.	Proposes one or more solutions/hypotheses that indicates a deep comprehension of the problem; solution/hypotheses are sensitive to contextual factors as well as all of the following: ethical, logical, and cultural dimensions of the problem.
<b>Evaluates potential solutions</b>	Evaluation of solutions is superficial and/or cursory; surface level explanation somewhat considers history of problem, reviews logic/reasoning, examines feasibility of solution, and weighs impacts of solution.	Evaluates solutions adequately with thorough explanations; evaluation of solutions considers history of problem, reviews logic/reasoning, examines feasibility of solution, and weighs impacts of solution.	Evaluates solutions completely with insightful explanations; evaluation of solutions deeply and thoroughly considers history of problem, reviews logic/reasoning, examines feasibility of solution, and weighs impacts of solution.
<b>Implement Solution</b>	Plans and/or takes action to implement a solution that does not directly address the problem statement and/or ignores the contextual factors of the problem.	Plans and takes action to implement the solution in a manner that addresses the multiple contextual factors of the problem in a surface manner.	Plans and takes action to implement the solution in a manner that thoroughly addresses the multiple contextual factors of the problem.
<b>Evaluates outcomes</b>	Reviews but does not evaluate results to determine effectiveness of solution or need for further work.	Reviews and evaluates results of solution relative to the problem defined with some consideration of need for further work.	Thoroughly reviews and evaluates results of solution relative to the problem defined.  Identifies opportunities for continued improvement and specific considerations of any further work.