

CRITICAL THINKING RUBRIC

	4-EXEMPLARY	3-PROFICIENT	2-EMERGING	1-NOVICE
Understands Problem	<p>Clearly defines the issue or problem</p> <p>Accurately identifies the core issues/key concepts</p> <p>Appreciates depth and breadth of problem</p> <p>Identifies relevant, significant points of view</p> <p>Demonstrates fair-mindedness toward the problem and all relevant points of view</p>	<p>Defines the issue</p> <p>Identifies the core issues/key concepts, but may not fully explore the depth and breadth</p> <p>Identifies relevant points of view</p> <p>Demonstrates fair-mindedness</p>	<p>Defines the issue, but superficially or narrowly</p> <p>May overlook some core issues/key concepts</p> <p>May focus on irrelevant or insignificant points of view</p> <p>May identify other points of view but struggles with maintaining fair-mindedness</p>	<p>Fails to clearly define the issue or problem</p> <p>Does not recognize the core issues/key concepts</p> <p>Ignores alternate points of view</p> <p>Fails to maintain a fair-minded approach toward the issue or problem or other points of view</p>
Acquires Information	<p>Identifies sufficient, credible, relevant information</p> <p>Considers information that opposes as well as supports the argued position</p> <p>Distinguishes between information and inferences drawn from it</p>	<p>Identifies sufficient, credible, relevant information</p> <p>Considers some information from opposing points of view</p> <p>Distinguishes between information and inferences drawn from it</p>	<p>Identifies some credible information, but not enough; some information may be irrelevant</p> <p>Ignores strong counter-arguments</p> <p>Sometimes confuses information and the inferences drawn from it</p>	<p>Relies on insufficient, irrelevant, or unreliable information</p> <p>Fails to identify or dismisses relevant counter-arguments</p> <p>Confuses information and the inferences drawn from it</p>
Utilizes Information	<p>Accurately explains/uses the relevant key concepts</p> <p>Accurately identifies assumptions</p> <p>Makes assumptions that are consistent, reasonable, and valid</p>	<p>Explains and uses the key concepts, but may lack depth and precision</p> <p>Identifies assumptions</p> <p>Makes valid assumptions</p>	<p>Identifies some key concepts, but use of concepts is superficial and inaccurate at times</p> <p>Fails to identify or explain assumptions, or the assumptions are irrelevant, unclear, and/or invalid</p>	<p>Misunderstands key concepts</p> <p>Fails to identify assumptions</p> <p>Makes invalid assumptions</p>
Makes Valid Conclusions	<p>Follows where evidence and reasoning lead to obtain defensible, thoughtful, logical conclusions or solutions</p> <p>Makes deep rather than superficial inferences</p> <p>Makes inferences that are consistent with one another</p> <p>Identifies the most significant implications and consequences of the reasoning (positive or negative)</p> <p>Distinguishes probable from improbable implications/solutions</p>	<p>Follows where evidence and reasoning lead to obtain justifiable, logical conclusions or solutions</p> <p>Makes valid inferences, but may lack depth</p> <p>Identifies significant implications and consequences, but may lack insight and precision</p> <p>Distinguishes probable from improbable implications/solutions, but may lack insight and precision</p>	<p>Follows some evidence to conclusions or solutions</p> <p>Makes inferences that are often unclear, illogical, inconsistent, and/or superficial</p> <p>Has trouble identifying significant implications and consequences</p> <p>Identifies improbable implications</p>	<p>Uses superficial, simplistic, or irrelevant reasoning and unjustifiable claims</p> <p>Makes illogical, inconsistent inferences</p> <p>Maintains or defends views based on self-interest, regardless of the evidence</p> <p>Ignores significant implications, consequences, or solutions</p>
Supporting Materials/ Information Literacy (if applicable)	<p>Selects authoritative, accurate, reliable, and timely scholarly and/or trade sources that are relevant to the topic; adjusts topic accordingly</p> <p>Integrates and balances paraphrasing, summarization, and quotation to support thesis and points, while respecting source material's original context</p> <p>Uses proper references & citations for all sources</p>	<p>Selects authoritative, accurate, reliable, and timely scholarly and/or trade sources that are relevant to the topic</p> <p>Integrates paraphrasing, summarization, and quotation to support thesis and points</p> <p>Uses proper references & citations for all sources</p>	<p>Selects sources that are relevant to the topic, but some may lack authority, accuracy, reliability, or timeliness</p> <p>Relies too heavily on paraphrasing or summarization or quotation of information supporting thesis and points</p> <p>Uses references & citations for sources with a minimum of errors or problems</p> <p>May plagiarize incrementally</p>	<p>Selects sources that are irrelevant or only marginally relevant to the topic and lack authority, accuracy, reliability, and timeliness</p> <p>Omits information supporting thesis and points, or sources were quoted only, or sources were improperly quoted</p> <p>Neglects references or citations, or references or citations have significant errors</p> <p>May plagiarize egregiously, whether deliberate or not</p>

Adapted from Foundation for Critical Thinking. (n.d.) Critical Thinking Grid. Retrieved from <http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/critical-thinking-testing-and-assessment/594>. Used by permission.

March 2013