

# Critical Thinking Skills

## Critical Thinking

Skills For Critical Thinking		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
LEVEL 1 Remembering	Define, Duplicate, List, Memorize, Recall, Repeat, Reproduce, State	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 2 Understanding	Classify, Describe, Discuss, Explain, Identify, Locate, Recognize	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 3 Applying	Choose, Demonstrate, Dramatize, Employ, Illustrate, Interpret, Operate, Write	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 4 Analysing	Appraise, Compare, Contrast, Criticize, Differentiate, Discriminate, Distinguish, Examine	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 5 Evaluating	Argue, Defend, Judge, Select, Support, Value, Decide, Evaluate	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LEVEL 6 Creating	Assemble, Construct, Create, Design, Develop, Formulate, Write.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Based on Bloom's Taxonomy



# What are Critical Thinking Skills?

1. **Circle** the word True if the statement is true. **Circle** the word False if it's false.

a) Everybody uses their brains in the same way.

**True**

**False**

b) Learning about thinking is important.

**True**

**False**

c) A person cannot become a better thinker by practicing critical thinking skills.

**True**

**False**

d) There are several kinds of thinking.

**True**

**False**

2. On your classroom computer, go to [http://www.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=AE062FAC5DAAF012](http://www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=AE062FAC5DAAF012). Click "Play all videos" and watch the following videos closely. After you've finished watching the videos, answer the following questions.

**Place a check mark (✓) beside the correct answer to each question.**

i) Why is Fair-minded Fran good at thinking?

- A She was born with a brilliant brain.**
- B She practices thinking every day.**
- C She only reads books about how to think.**

ii) When Fran is confused she \_\_\_\_\_.

- A asks questions.**
- B cries.**
- C asks her mom for help every time.**

iii) Selfish Sam \_\_\_\_\_.

- A believes whatever he wants to believe.**
- B believes what he can prove.**
- C believes nothing.**

iv) Naïve Nancy \_\_\_\_\_.

- A never believes anyone.**
- B believes most of what she sees and hears.**
- C only believes what she wants to.**



# Keys to Organization

A critical thinker is an organized or “orderly and effective” thinker. Many students think in a very unorganized or confusing way. They might be listening to the teacher one second and wondering about what’s on TV the next. When unorganized thinkers sit down to do their homework, they have to hunt for the assignment sheet, find their pencils and paper, and then ask their parents what the directions mean. In other words, they don’t get much thinking done! A good critical thinker is just the opposite.

A student who is organized has a system or routine in place that includes the following:

- A way to make sure he or she has all the tools he or she needs for homework and schoolwork.
- Places to keep supplies both at home and at school.
- A way to transport his or her books and supplies between home and school when necessary.
- A way to make sure parents receive papers and forms for signing.
- A way to return those papers and forms to school.
- A way to stay on top of test dates and due dates.

**Critical thinkers have a special place to study and work at home.** It doesn’t have to be a whole room, a desk or table will do. **The place needs to have a good light source and a quiet atmosphere.** You should be ready to think when you go to your special study area.

**Critical thinkers need a system to keep track of important papers.** Many students use a three ring binder with special folders in it. In this binder you can keep your homework sheets, notes that need to be signed, and other important material that you need to save.

**Critical thinkers need to have a calendar or datebook for assignments and due dates.** A calendar will help you keep track of everything that needs to be returned to your teacher.

**Critical thinkers make sure that they understand their short-term and long-term assignments.** You should listen carefully to your teacher and then ask questions if you don’t understand any part of the assignment. Being organized leaves you the time to get down to your real work — THINKING!



**The Reading Watch Dog says,**

**“Out of clutter, find  
Simplicity. From discord, find  
Harmony. In the middle of  
difficulty lies opportunity.”**

**— Albert Einstein, Scientist.**



# Keys to Being a Critical Thinker

1. Write a paragraph of at least five sentences describing yourself as a critical thinker. Use the qualities we discussed on the previous page as a guide for thinking.

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SAMPLE

2. Circle the word True if the statement is true. Circle the word False if it's false.

a) A good critical thinker knows the difference between facts and opinions.

True False

b) A good critical thinker does not take time to find out whether information is true or not.

True False

c) A good critical thinker will try to predict the outcome or results of actions or plans.

True False

d) A good critical thinker is always concerned with finding out the truth.

True False

e) A good critical thinker does not take the time to give feedback to other people.

True False

f) A good critical thinker compares the similarities and differences of concepts.

True False