The Critical Thinking Competency  
Rio Salado College

On a standardized test or in a written assignment, the student will demonstrate the ability to analyze information, evaluate material, use inference to draw conclusions, use deductive reasoning, and use inductive reasoning at a college level.

Workable Definition of Critical Thinking:

Critical thinking is the process of actively and skillfully using a set of core skills—analysis, evaluation, inference, deductive reasoning, and inductive reasoning—to process and generate information and beliefs.

(*definition supports “Defining Critical Thinking” by Scriven and Paul, the National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking, and the measure of overall critical thinking ability measured by the California Academic Press’ The Test of Everyday Reasoning)

Rio Salado College: Critical Thinking Competency  
Four-Point Rubric

4 = High level excellence in evidence of critical thinking ability and performance at the college level
3 = Demonstrable, competent, expected evidence of critical thinking ability and performance at the college level
2 = Minimally acceptable, inconsistent evidence of critical thinking ability and performance at the college level
1 = Poor, unacceptable evidence of critical thinking ability and performance at the college level

| 4 | A. Analyzes key information, questions, and problems clearly and precisely  
B. Evaluates material with insight  
C. Uses inference to reason carefully from clearly stated premises to important implications and consequences  
D. Uses deductive reasoning and problem-solving skills consistently and with ease  
E. Uses inductive reasoning consistently and with ease |
|---|---|
| 3 | A. Analyzes key information, questions, and problems competently  
B. Evaluates material competently |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>C. Uses inference to reason competently from clearly stated premises to important implications and consequences</th>
<th>D. Uses deductive reasoning and problem-solving skills competently</th>
<th>E. Uses inductive reasoning competently</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A. Analyzes some key information, questions, and problems competently</td>
<td>B. Evaluates material inconsistently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>A. Is unable to analyze information, questions, and problems or does so superficially</td>
<td>B. Is unable to evaluate material or does so superficially</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Analysis

4. Analyzes key information, questions, and problems clearly and precisely  
3. Analyzes key information, questions, and problems competently  
2. Analyzes some key information, questions, and problems competently  
1. Is unable to analyze information, questions, and problems or does so superficially

### Evaluation

4. Evaluates material with insight  
3. Evaluates material competently  
2. Evaluates material inconsistently  
1. Is unable to evaluate material or does so superficially

### Inference

4. Uses inference to reason carefully from clearly stated premises to important implications and consequences  
3. Uses inference to reason competently from clearly stated premises to important implications and consequences  
2. Uses inference to reason inconsistently from clearly stated premises to implications and consequences  
1. Is unable to or infrequently uses inference to reason from clearly stated premises or recognize implications and consequences

### Deductive Reasoning

4. Uses deductive reasoning and problem-solving skills consistently and with ease  
3. Uses deductive reasoning and problem-solving skills
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deductive Reasoning</td>
<td>4. Uses deductive reasoning consistently and with ease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Uses deductive reasoning competently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Uses deductive reasoning inconsistently and weakly</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Is unable to or infrequently uses deductive reasoning and problem-solving</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inductive Reasoning</td>
<td>4. Uses inductive reasoning consistently and with ease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Uses inductive reasoning competently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Uses inductive reasoning inconsistently and weakly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Is unable to or infrequently uses inductive reasoning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>