

### Critical Thinking Rubric *(based on AAC&U VALUE Rubrics)*

**Definition: Students explore issues and ideas before formulating an opinion, solving a problem, or drawing a conclusion.**

*Over the course of the general education program, students will build the habit of critical thinking. Students will learn to analyze and evaluate data and evidence, interpret and develop ideas, and combine that information into a coherent whole. Critical thinking is vital to all areas of life; thus, students will learn to apply critical thinking skills not only in an academic setting, but also beyond the campus to personal or global issues.*

*Evaluators are encouraged to assign a zero to any work that is plagiarized or does not meet beginning level performance.*

Criteria	Mastering	Accomplishing	Developing	Beginning
<b>Explore &amp; develop ideas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Idea/problem is clearly defined and significant</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Related factors/concepts/elements/details are relevant and enrich the work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Idea/problem is clearly defined</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Related factors/concepts/elements/details are relevant and give basic explanation of the idea</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Idea/problem is loosely defined</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Related factors/concepts/elements/details provided but insufficient for relevancy and explanation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Idea/problem is not defined or absent</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Related factors/concepts/elements/details are lacking, resulting in disconnected thoughts</li> </ul>
<b>Analyze &amp; evaluate data &amp;/or evidence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Multiple high-quality sources considered</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Outside factors and their influences are fully considered</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Data/evidence are used to make decisions which are correctly supported by data/evidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Multiple relevant sources considered</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Outside factors are presented and their influences are considered in a limited fashion</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Data/evidence are provided and used to make decisions, but decisions are poorly or incorrectly supported by data/evidence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Limited sources considered</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Outside factors are presented but their influences are not considered</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Partial data/evidence are provided but not used to make decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sources lacking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Outside factors are not considered</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> No data/evidence provided</li> </ul>
<b>Synthesize information into a coherent argument</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Position/perspective/thesis/hypothesis is fully developed and clearly guides the narrative</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Argument is clear and supported by multiple, high-quality sources</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contradictory perspectives, as well as alternate and/or divergent perspectives are integrated into decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Position/perspective/thesis/hypothesis is specific and makes multiple connections</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Argument is clear and supported by multiple sources</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contradictory perspectives are well represented but not integrated into decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Position/perspective/thesis/hypothesis is stated, makes a few connections within the narrative but leaves it disjointed</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Argument is clear but simplistic, supported by limited sources</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contradictory perspectives are limited and not integrated into decisions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Position/perspective/thesis/hypothesis is stated but does not guide the narrative</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Argument is unclear and lacks support from sources</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contradictory perspectives are not explored</li> </ul>
<b>Apply Critical Thinking forming solutions, conclusions or opinions and their related outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Position/perspective/thesis/hypothesis is creative, considers idea/problem complexities; acknowledges limitations; synthesizes opposing/diverse viewpoints</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Logical conclusion reflects a thoroughly informed evaluation (i.e., analyze and prioritize data/evidence)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If present, related outcomes are logical, take in opposing/diverse viewpoints, reflect an informed evaluation (i.e., analyze and prioritize data/ evidence)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Position/perspective/thesis/ hypothesis is clearly stated, considers idea/problem complexities; acknowledges opposing/ diverse viewpoints</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Logical conclusion tied to a range of information/data/evidence, includes opposing and diverse viewpoints, consistent with analysis and evaluation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If present, related outcomes are logical, tied to a range of information/data/ evidence, take in opposing/diverse viewpoints; consistent with analysis and evaluation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Position/perspective/thesis/hypothesis is stated; acknowledges different sides of an issue</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion not necessarily logical, selects information to fit desired result; conclusion tied to analysis of data/evidence, but evaluation is poor or lacking</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If present related outcomes use select information chosen to fit desired outcomes; outcomes tied to analysis of data/evidence, but evaluation is poor or lacking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Position/perspective/thesis/hypothesis is simplistic and lacks clarity</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conclusion inconsistent due to poor analysis of data/evidence, no evaluation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> If present, related outcomes are inconsistent due to poor analysis of data/ evidence, no evaluation</li> </ul>

