

Critical thinking skills

1. Recognizing point of view

identifying the factors that color the outlook of a person or group. this helps one examine why people think the way they do.

2. Comparing and Contrasting

examining events, situations, or points of view for their similarities and differences. comparing focusing on similarities and differences. contrasting focuses only on differences.

3. Identifying cause and effect

interpreting the relationships between political events. a cause is any action that leads to an event. an effect is the outcome of that action.

4. Analyzing

the process of breaking something down into its parts and examining the relationship. analyzing parts helps one better understand the whole.

5. Assessing consequences

studying an action, event, or trend to predict or determine its long-term effects and to judge its desirability.

6. Distinguishing fact from opinion

separating the facts about something from what people say about it. a fact can be proved or observed. an opinion is a personal belief or conclusion.

7. Identifying values

recognizing the core beliefs held by a person or group. values are more deeply held than opinion and are less likely to change.

8. Hypothesizing

forming a possible explanation for an event, a situation or a problem. a hypothesis is not a proven fact but an educated guess.

9. Synthesizing

combining information and ideas from several sources to gain a new understanding of a topic or an event

10. Problem solving

the process of reviewing a situation, determining its troublesome elements and then making recommendations for improving or correcting them.

11. Evaluating

assessing the significance or overall importance of something. base your standards on something others will understand.

12. Taking a stand

identifying an issue, deciding what you thinking about it, and persuasively expressing your position on it.

13. Studying contemporary issues and problems

identifying a current topic frequently discussed in the media, reading several sources of information on the topic and evaluating the information.

14. Applying the model

depicting something in its ideal state and evaluating how well a specific example matches the ideal.