



*Students will be able to apply critical thinking skills and employ qualitative and quantitative methodologies in order to formulate questions and evaluate core knowledge areas*

Objective	Definition	Key Term	(3) Competence	(2) Building Capacity	(1) Exposure
<b>Critical thinking</b>	<b>A habit of mind characterized by comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion</b>	<b>Analysis</b>	Organizes and synthesizes evidence to reveal insightful patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus.	Organizes evidence to reveal important patterns, differences, or similarities related to focus.	Organizes evidence, but not in a manner that reveals important patterns, differences, or similarities.
		<b>Student's position</b>	Position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) is imaginative, taking in the complexities of an issue. Limits of position are acknowledged. Other points of view are synthesized within position.	Specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) takes into account the complexities of an issue. Others' points of view are acknowledged within position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis).	Specific position (perspective, thesis/hypothesis) acknowledges different sides of an issue.
		<b>Influence of context and assumptions</b>	Thoroughly (systematically and methodically) analyzes own and others' assumptions and carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.	Identifies own and others' assumptions and several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Questions some assumptions. Identifies several relevant contexts when presenting a position. May be more aware of others' assumptions than one's own (or vice versa).
		<b>Conclusions</b>	Conclusions and related outcomes (consequences and implications) are logical and reflect student's informed evaluation and ability to place evidence and perspectives discussed in priority order.	Conclusion is logically tied to a range of information, which includes opposing viewpoints; related outcomes (both consequences and implications) are identified clearly.	Conclusion is logically tied to information (since information is chosen to fit the desired conclusion); some related outcomes (consequences and implications) are identified clearly.