

Critical Thinking

The ability to think deeply about a problem and find a solution strongly valued in the workplace. Your boss doesn't want to have to tell you **how** to do everything, rather they should be able to give you a goal or task and let you figure out how to make it happen. Evaluate each situation using knowledge, facts & data to effectively divide larger problems up into solvable smaller tasks.

When a problem persists, use systems thinking to address the underlying system that created the problem.

Essential Skills: Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

4 Exemplary	3 Accomplished	2 Developing	1 Emerging
<input type="checkbox"/> Effectively exercises sound reasoning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Exercises sound reasoning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Struggles to exercise sound reasoning.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not exercise sound reasoning.
<input type="checkbox"/> Effectively exercises analytical thinking.	<input type="checkbox"/> Exercises analytical thinking.	<input type="checkbox"/> Struggles to exercise analytical thinking.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not exercise analytical thinking.
<input type="checkbox"/> Makes judgments & explains perspectives based on evidence & previous findings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Makes judgments & explains perspectives based on evidence & previous findings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to make judgments & explains perspectives based on evidence & findings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Makes judgements and arguments that are not based on evidence & findings.
<input type="checkbox"/> Uses knowledge, facts & data to solve problems effectively.	<input type="checkbox"/> Uses knowledge, facts & data to solve problems.	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to use knowledge, facts & data to solve problems.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not use significant knowledge, facts & data to solve problems.
<input type="checkbox"/> Applies systems thinking by considering and analyzing "what is it about the problem that we don't understand?"	<input type="checkbox"/> Applies systems thinking by considering "what is it about the problem that we don't understand?"	<input type="checkbox"/> Attempts to apply systems thinking by considering the problem itself.	<input type="checkbox"/> Does not look at the underlying systems or consider the problem in depth.



Industry Desired Critical Thinking Outcomes	Model Assignment
Exercises sound reasoning and analytical thinking.	<u>On the Job Solutions</u>
Makes judgments and explains perspectives based on evidence and previous findings.	Critical Thinking - Students use the problem solving process to approach three workplace oriented problems and develop solutions
Uses knowledge, facts & data to solve problems.	Additional Examples of Critical Thinking Assignments
Applies system thinking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research project ● Industry-provided/scenario-based problem-solving activity ● Designing a lab ● Experimental Design ● Developing a business plan ● Developing an algorithm or completing a coding project ● Claim, Evidence Reasoning Activities ● Participates in or organizes a service learning project.

Critical Thinking Additional Resources	
Junior Achievement JA Career Success Program Session One: Get Hired: Critical Thinking and Creativity	
SB1070 Career Pathways: www.CareerAcademics.org CareerReady! Developing Critical Thinking	
San Diego Workforce Partnership: http://workforce.org/connect2careers Coming Soon!	
The New World of Work: http://www.newworldofwork.org/21st-century-skills/ The New World of Work-Analysis/ Solution Mindset Overview Video The New World of Work-Analysis/Solution Mindset Assessment Video	
The New World of Work: Lesson 1: Solving Problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Problem Solving Exercise Handout ● Instructional PowerPoint ● Dr. Tina Seelig Reframing Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amvwtPKqIVk 	The New World of Work: Lesson 2: Design Thinking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human-Centered Design Video: https://vimeo.com/106505300 ● Design Kit Website: www.designkit.org ● Activity Handout ● Instructional PowerPoint

