

A Sample Rubric: The Critical Thinking Rubric

(From Washington State University, <http://wsuctproject.ctlt.wsu.edu/ctr.htm>)

Objective	Scant	Substantially Developed
Identifies and summarizes the problem/question at issue (and/or the source's position).	Does not identify and summarize the problem, is confused or identifies a different and inappropriate problem. Does not identify or is confused by the issue, or represents the issue inaccurately.			Identifies the main problem and subsidiary, embedded, or implicit aspects of the problem, and identifies them clearly, addressing their relationships to each other. Identifies not only the basics of the issue, but recognizes nuances of the issue.
Identifies and presents the STUDENT'S OWN perspective and position as it is important to the analysis of the issue.	Addresses a single source or view of the argument and fails to clarify the established or presented position relative to one's own. Fails to establish other critical distinctions.			Identifies, appropriately, one's own position on the issue, drawing support from experience, and information not available from assigned sources.
Identifies and considers OTHER salient perspectives and positions that are important to the analysis of the issue.	Deals only with a single perspective and fails to discuss other possible perspectives, especially those salient to the issue.			Addresses perspectives noted previously, and additional diverse perspectives drawn from outside information.
Identifies and assesses the key assumptions.	Does not surface the assumptions and ethical issues that underlie the issue, or does so superficially.			Identifies and questions the validity of the assumptions and addresses the ethical dimensions that underlie the issue.
Identifies and assesses the quality of supporting data/evidence and provides additional data/evidence related to the issue.	Merely repeats information provided, taking it as truth, or denies evidence without adequate justification. Confuses associations and correlations with cause and effect. Does not distinguish between fact, opinion, and value judgments.			Examines the evidence and source of evidence; questions its accuracy, precision, relevance, completeness. Observes cause and effect and addresses existing or potential consequences. Clearly distinguishes between fact, opinion, & acknowledges value judgments.
Identifies and considers the influence of the context* on the issue.	Discusses the problem only in egocentric or sociocentric terms. Does not present the problem as having connections to other contexts-cultural, political, etc.			Analyzes the issue with a clear sense of scope and context, including an assessment of the audience of the analysis. Considers other pertinent contexts.
Identifies and assesses conclusions, implications and consequences.	Fails to identify conclusions, implications, and consequences of the issue or the key relationships between the other elements of the problem, such as context, implications, assumptions, or data and evidence.			Identifies and discusses conclusions, implications, and consequences considering context, assumptions, data, and evidence. Objectively reflects upon the their own assertions.

* Contexts for Consideration:

1. Cultural/Social – Group, national, ethnic behavior/attitude
2. Scientific – Conceptual, basic science, scientific method
3. Educational – Schooling, formal training
4. Economic – Trade, business concerns costs
5. Technological – Applied science, engineering
6. Ethical – Values
7. Political – Organizational or governmental
8. Personal Experience – Personal observation, informal character