

Critical Thinking Skills Structured Template

(correlating to rubric)

Instructions: Please use the questions under each of the 7 Critical Thinking elements to assist you in forming a response for each element (based on your classroom assignment). Not all of the questions need to be answered--they serve as a guide only. Utilize your responses to form a written paper that should address each of the 7 elements (can either be in essay form with an introduction, body and conclusion or in a technical report style that simply addresses each element.)

1. Explain/describe the problem/Issue/situation
 - What are some elements/aspects/causes?
 - Why is it a problem/issue/situation?
 - Who/what does it impact?
 - What consequences are there if there is no resolution?
2. Identify the key assumptions in the problem/issue/situation
 - What are you taking for granted?
 - Are there hidden assumptions?
 - How do you separate the factual from the assumed?
 - Are my assumptions shaping my point of view?
3. List personal position/perspectives related to the problem/issue/situation
 - What does bias mean? **See glossary**
 - Am I biased?
 - If so, can you identify your bias?
 - Is this based on my experience?
 - Am I guessing?
 - How do you know if you are biased?
4. Explain how other perspectives/positions influenced your thinking
 - Is bias built into the project/task? (make/model *Allen Bradley, John Deere, CISCO* example)
 - Are there other ways to look at this? (cost, morals, ecology, industry standard)
 - Is there an expert you can consult?
 - Are there any blogs/websites you can visit to focus your thinking?

5. Explain how your information was verified and/or researched. List your sources.
 - Name your sources of information?
 - Are they reliable?
 - Are they and the information specific to your industry?
 - How can you verify them?
 - Is the information?
 - ✓ Factual
 - ✓ Current
 - ✓ Relevant
 - ✓ Complete
 - Are multiple sources necessary?
 - Have any value judgments been identified?

6. How did you solve your problem/situation?
 - Did you solve it?
 - If you did not solve it, why not?
 - Was there another option?
 - Did you use a problem solving process?
 - What process did you use?
 - What were your steps?
 - Did your investigation uncover a different issue or problem than what was initially anticipated?

7. What are the implications, conclusions and consequences of your solution/resolution or *nonresolution*?
 - Have you come to a successful conclusion to the task?
 - How has the resolution improved your situation?
 - Have you utilized your data and evidence in your solution?
 - How can you monitor the outcome?
 - Is the outcome realistic or practical?