Critical Thinking Skills Structured Template
(correlating to rubric)

Instructions: Please use the questions under each of the six 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 6 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?
   - How are my assumptions shaping my point of view?

3. List positions/perspectives related to the problem/issue/situation
   - What does bias mean? See glossary
   - How am I biased in this situation?
   - Is this based on my experience or am I guessing?
   - 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 or other resources you can visit to focus your thinking?

4. 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?
5. **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?

6. **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?

10/12/12