

## Critical Thinking Rubric

Context: Staff at Ulverstone High School identified criteria for critical thinking and developed a rubric that could be used by staff or students to evaluate their level of success in critical thinking.

Criteria	D	C	B	A
<b>Providing Valid Reasons</b>	I seldom provide any reasons for the points I make. When I provide reasons, they are often lacking in validity.	I often state my opinions without giving a valid reason but I can point to a few examples where I have given valid reasons.	I often try to provide one or more valid reasons when expressing a judgment or opinion, or when arguing a case.	I always try to, and usually succeed in, providing valid reasons when expressing a judgment or opinion, or when arguing a case.
<b>Evaluating Evidences and Reasoning</b>	I deliberately make up evidence to support my views and give reasons knowing that they are not valid, just to win people over to my point of view.	I seldom question my own thinking and can be swayed by arguments that sound good or agree with my point of view without really questioning the validity of the evidence or the reasoning.	I can identify valid evidence and sound reasoning in my thinking and that of others. However I sometimes forget to question, and accept arguments as valid when they might not be.	I identify and question with sensitivity the weaknesses in reasoning and evidence used to support arguments in my thinking and that of others in an attempt to lead thinking towards valid conclusions.
<b>Identifying Assumptions</b>	I don't really understand what an assumption is. I can't identify this aspect when we think and talk about things.	I can identify assumptions but I don't question assumptions that I have made about important issues. They are just the things I believe and I refuse to question them.	I can identify assumptions in my thinking and that of others but I still find it a difficult process and sometimes forget to think about it.	I recognise and question the validity of assumptions that underpin my arguments and the arguments of others.
<b>Being Fair-minded</b>	I know that what I know or believe is right and I only listen to the arguments and views of others to find weaknesses to destroy their case so that I can get other people to agree with me.	I listen to some arguments and points of view, but I don't bother listening to the views of people I don't like or who I think are wrong. Once I make up my mind I don't change it very often.	I often listen carefully to other arguments and points of view. I try to seriously consider the strengths and weaknesses of my thinking and that of others. I sometimes find it hard to listen to people I don't like or people who are saying things I don't like.	I usually seriously consider other arguments and points of view. I listen and consider developing a deeper understanding of people and their thinking. I am prepared to change my thinking if my thinking is proven to be poor.