

Critical Thinking				
Criteria	Expert	Practitioner	Apprentice	Novice
Accesses, analyzes, and connects information, considering its relationship to context and evidence.	Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/ evaluation to develop a comprehensive analysis or synthesis. Carefully evaluates the relevance of contexts when presenting a position.	Information is taken from source(s) with enough interpretation/ evaluation to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Reviews several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Information is taken from source(s) with some interpretation/ evaluation, but not enough to develop a coherent analysis or synthesis. Identifies several relevant contexts when presenting a position.	Information is taken from source(s) without any interpretation/ evaluation. Begins to identify some contexts when presenting a position.
Identifies and considers the influence of bias and others' assumptions.	Thoroughly (systematically and methodically) analyzes bias and others' assumptions and viewpoints of experts are questioned thoroughly.	Identifies bias and others' assumptions and understands that the viewpoints of experts are subject to questioning.	Questions some assumptions. Viewpoints of experts are taken as mostly fact, with some questioning.	Shows an emerging awareness of present assumptions (sometimes labels assertions as assumptions). Viewpoints of experts are taken as fact, without question.
Develops an informed and effective position based on relevant criteria.	Specific position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) is imaginative, taking into account the complexities of an issue. Limits of position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) are acknowledged. Others' points of view are synthesized within position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis).	Specific position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) takes into account the complexities of an issue. Others' points of view are acknowledged within position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis).	Specific position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) acknowledges different sides of an issue.	Specific position (perspective, thesis/ hypothesis) is stated, but is simplistic and obvious.
Reconstructs one's beliefs on the basis of wider experience.	Fair-mindedly follows where evidence and reason lead, acknowledging and articulating specific changes in beliefs or assumptions.	Fair-mindedly follows where evidence and reason lead. Acknowledges that personal beliefs or assumptions have changed.	Questions personal views and preconceptions based on evidence and reason.	Regardless of the evidence or reasons, maintains or defends views based on self-interest or preconceptions.