

# CRITICAL THINKING



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## REVIEW ONLY



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Critical thinking is reflective thinking to determine what is true in order to decide what action to take. It is one of the highest levels of thinking.

### PROBLEM SOLVING:

Defining a problem and thinking of ways to overcome obstacles. Good problem solvers must be persistent and creative.

#### CRITICAL THINKING IN SCHOOL:

- \* Word Problems
- \* Essay Questions
- \* Role Playing
- \* Simulations

### ORGANIZING:

Arranging a thing in a particular way. Organizers have good spatial sense and can quickly see patterns.

### EVALUATING:

Judging and ranking to determine a thing's worth. Evaluating often includes ranking something first, second, third, etc. Good evaluators are careful observers and precise note takers.

#### CRITICAL THINKING IN SCHOOL:

- \* Decision Making
- \* Relationships
- \* Analyzing Data
- \* Organizing Data
- \* Describing Things
- \* Explaining Things

### ANALYZING:

Evaluating something in systematic detail to discover its essence or meaning. Analyzers gather as many facts as possible and document findings. Your final analysis is based on research.

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# TRY YOUR CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS WITH THESE:

1. An alien from another planet lands in your backyard. The alien knows nothing about you or earthly ways. Describe and explain your morning routine from the time you get up until you get to school.
2. A really cool app has a free version and a pay version that offers more features. How do you decide which version to download?
3. \*Answer this classic riddle: What goes on four legs in the morning, on two legs at noon, and on three legs in the evening?



Make good choices, not just between bad and good, but between good and better.

Keep the items you use most often close to you for easy access, but things you use less often in the back of closets or lockers.

Be an independent critical thinker, not someone who blindly follows the crowd.

Research and compare brands and prices of costly items to get the best product for your money.

Use your planner to organize your time and know in a glance what you should be doing, with whom, where, and for how long.

Consider long term effects of your actions to help you make the best choices.

In solving problems, try to think of the simplest way to achieve the desired outcome.

Stay organized so that you can be more efficient and effective in school, job activities, and life.

Determine what you want to do. Then evaluate whether a particular activity is worth it.

Seek solutions where no one loses and everyone wins something. You will be valued as a peacemaker.

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School Datebooks

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\* Answer: A human. Explanation: The beginning, middle, and end of a day are used as a metaphor to describe the stages of a human life. In the beginning (morning), a baby crawls on all fours. During the middle part of life (noon), an adult walks on two legs. Toward the end of life (evening), an elderly person still walks on two legs but with the assistance of a cane (the third "leg").