

Critical Thinking



What does it mean to be a critical thinker? Grade 5-9

Discussion on Critical Thinking

Small Group work

Share out

Compilation of ideas

Post the Ideas

Add to the ideas throughout the year/term

Use this poster/chart of ideas in your classroom

Have the kids notice it in their work

Have the kids notice it in other subject area or settings

Example: about scientists they are studying, explorers, cultures, characters in novels; inside the classroom, at home, in the community

Ongoing Self Assessment:

Take the key words and phrases off the chart
(with your students)

Put the key words/phrases on a piece of paper to be duplicated
Several times during the year have the students sort the words into 3 categories
below (category wording from IB self assessment)

OR

Have the students choose 10 key phrases or words from the chart to sort
and/or add some of their own that are not on the chart

OR

Start with having the students choose a few that are “very much like me”
and give some evidence

A bit like me	Quite like me	Very much like me
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Have ongoing discussions about critical thinking
How do any of us get better at it? What does it take?
Explore growth mindset.

Have students keep each of their self-assessments and compare them
as the year goes on.

At the end of the term or year or at some point in the year, have the
students make a summary statement of their growth or represent their
growth in some way.

Alternately, use the final sort of words as the final self-assessment and
have the students give some evidence for a few of the aspects.

Notice all the statements below could have "I CAN" in front of them
Remember these are student generated ideas WITH teacher input

A bit like me	Quite like me	Very much like me
Come up with ideas on my own	Ask myself lots of questions about what I am thinking and doing	Look at things from lots of points of views
Tell the difference between facts and opinions	Ask others questions about their thinking	Gather information and use it different ways
Think through a plan first before beginning	Use other peoples ideas (in class and in books) to help me think differently	Find and explore lots of materials to help me make a plan
Adjust my plan as I go along	Use other peoples ideas to help me think of new ideas	Be curious
	Figure out what I am to do when I'm given a task	Try lots of different ways to show my thinking
	Tell if I am on the right track	Think about my audience