Critical & Creative Thinking Questions to Ask for or Generate Feedback

Critical Thinking Intellectual Standards

Clarity: Easy to understand; free from confusion or ambiguity, lacking obscurities.
- Could you give me an example or elaborate further?
- Could you illustrate what you mean?

Accuracy: Free from errors, mistakes, or distortions; conforming to fact, truth, or some standard.
- How could we check on that?
- How could we test that?

Precision: Accurate, definite, and exact.
- Could you be more specific?
- Could you give me more details?

Relevance: Bearing upon or relating to the matter at hand; having a close logical relationship to the matter under consideration.
- How does that relate to the problem?
- How does that help us with the issue?

Depth: Dealing with the complexities.
- What are some of the complexities of this question?
- What factors make this a difficult problem?

Breadth: Recognizing insights in more than one side of a question.
- Do we need to look at this from another perspective?
- Do we need to consider another point of view?

Logic: Reasoning and understanding the set of rational considerations that bear upon the truth/justification of any belief or the settlement of any question(s).
- Does all this make sense together?
- Does what you say follow from the evidence?

Significance: Having relative importance.
- Is this the central idea to focus on?
- Is this an important problem to consider?

Fairness: Treating all sides alike without reference to one's own feelings or interests.
- Do I have any vested interest in this issue?
- Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?

Creative Thinking Intellectual Standards

Originality: Constructive imagination and independent thought.
- Did the idea arise from independent thought?
- Did you use imagination in a productive way?

Adaptability & Flexibility: ability to adjust thinking under new or unstable conditions and to move among various vehicles of thought (numerical, linguistic, visual) depending on the situation or context.
- How did you adjust your thinking to changes in the situation or context?

Appropriateness: Goodness of fit between the constraints of the problem and the properties of the solution.
- Does your solution fit the parameters of the problem?
- Is your idea pertinent to the prompt?

Contribution to the Domain: The accepted worth of new ideas within the discipline.
- Is the new idea of value to the discipline?
- Does your solution contribute new meaning or practice that others can benefit from?