

### Introduction

Scheffer and Rubenfeld discuss critical thinking habits and critical thinking skills. For each of the critical thinking skills shown below, they give a number of activity statements.

### 1. Analyzing

- Separating or breaking a whole into parts to discover their nature, functional and relationships.
- "I studied it piece by piece"
- "I sorted things out"

### 2. Applying Standards

- Judging according to established personal, professional, or social rules or criteria.
- "I judged it according to..."

### 3. Discriminating

Recognizing differences and similarities among things or situations and distinguishing carefully as to category or rank.

"I rank ordered the various..."

"I grouped things together"

### 4. Information Seeking

Searching for evidence, facts, or knowledge by identifying relevant sources and gathering objective, subjective, historical, and current data from those sources

"I knew I needed to lookup/study..."

"I kept searching for data."

### 5. Logical Reasoning

Drawing inferences or conclusions that are supported in or justified by evidence

"I deduced from the information that..."

"My rationale for the conclusion was..."

### Critical Thinking Questions

**6 critical questions**  
things to think about when someone has something to say

- who**
  - Who said it?
    - Someone you know? Someone famous?
    - Someone in authority?
    - Should it matter who said it?
- what**
  - What did they say?
    - Did they give facts or opinions?
    - Did they give all the facts?
    - Did they leave something out?
- where**
  - Where did they say it?
    - Was it in public or in private?
    - Did other people have a chance to talk about the other side?
- when**
  - When did they say it?
    - Before, after, or during an important event?
- why**
  - Why did they say it?
    - Did they explain their opinions?
    - Were they trying to make someone look good or bad?
- how**
  - How did they say it?
    - Were they happy, sad, angry, or didn't care? Did they write it or speak it?
    - Could you understand it?

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### 6. Predicting

Envisioning a plan and its consequences

"I envisioned the outcome would be..."

"I was prepared for..."

### 7. Transforming Knowledge

Changing or converting the condition, nature, form, or function of concepts among contexts

"I improved on the basics by..."

"I wondered if that would fit the situation of ..."



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