# ES2660 Ennis Worksheet

This worksheet is based on Ennis, 2011 which is the shortest of his articles. It was chosen to give a concise overview of his taxonomy of critical thinking skills and dispositions. You may read other longer versions if you are interested in the development of his ideas, but it is not necessary.

## Mining for meaning

### A taxonomy is a classification system, which two main classifications does Ennis use?

### How long has Ennis been thinking about his critical thinking taxonomy?

### What are some pieces of evidence that you can use to evaluate how much weight to give to Ennis?

### Ennis claims that “critical thinking is reasonable and reflective thinking focussed on deciding what to believe or do’, in what ways is this seen?

### How is critical thinking connected to decisions and actions?

### Can you think of any decision or action that would be made without critical thinking? If so, how would the decision or action likely turn out?

### There are 18 taxa mentioned from p1 to p4, what adjectives can you use to describe each taxa briefly? The point of this question is to give you a quick handle on the key characteristics.

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| Taxon | Adjectives |
| Dispositions | |
| Disposition 1. Care that their beliefs are true..to get it right..” | Accurate  Precise  Evidence-based  Circumspect |
| Disposition 2. Care to understand and present a position honestly and clearly… | Knowledgeable  Honest/Truthful  Comprehensive |
| Disposition 3. Care about everyone… |  |
| Critical thinking Skills | |
| Basic clarification #1 |  |
| Basic clarification #2 |  |
| Basic clarification #3 |  |
| Basis for decision #4 |  |
| Basis for decision #5 |  |
| Inference #6 |  |
| Inference #7 |  |
| Inference #8 |  |
| Advance clarification #9 |  |
| Advance clarification #10 |  |
| Supposition and integration #11 |  |
| Supposition and integration #12 |  |
| Auxiliary ability #13 |  |
| Auxiliary ability #14 |  |
| Auxiliary ability #15 |  |

## Applying salient points in new contexts

### Ennis uses certain words to express his critical thinking skills and dispositions – highlight in yellow some of these words – you should be able to find at least 10, there are considerably more, but 10 will give you an idea of how you would express your critical thinking too. What one word or short phrase could you use to describe his language use?

### How will you reduce 18 taxa into a shorter and easy to remember rubric? In this exercise, you will be making information meaningful to yourself primarily and then expressing it clearly so someone else also understands your meaning.