

Critical Thinking Skills and Subskills

Critical thinking is a broad process defined in many ways. The table shows one set of specific skills and subskills.

Skills	Subskills
Defining	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pose open-ended questions• Find unique characteristics• Gather facts• Recognize tasks and problems• Move from general to specific
Classifying	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognize similarities and differences• Group and sort• Compare• Make either/or distinctions
Finding Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relate parts and wholes• See patterns• Analyze• Synthesize• Recognize sequences and order• Use inductive and deductive reasoning
Drawing Conclusions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify cause and effect• Make distinctions• Infer• Evaluate

Adapted from Presseisen, B. Z. (2001). Thinking skills: Meanings and models revisited. In A. L. Costa (Ed.), *Developing minds* (pp. 47–53). Alexandria, VA: ASCD.