

**Critical Thinking** – Problem Solving – Managing Information – Creativity and Innovation – Communication – Collaboration – Cultural and Global Citizenship – Personal Growth and Well-being



Involves using reasoning and criteria to conceptualize, evaluate or synthesize ideas. Students reflect on their thinking to improve it. They challenge assumptions behind thoughts, beliefs or actions. Students value honesty, fairness and open-mindedness.

**Alberta students:**

*Question, reflect, evaluate, analyze, synthesize, conceptualize, and reason*

**Alberta students value:**

*Honesty, intellectual integrity, fairness, and open-mindedness*

**CRITICAL THINKING INDICATORS:**

- ✓ Demonstrating intellectual integrity, fairness and open-mindedness
- ✓ Synthesizing thoughts and information to discover or extend understandings
- ✓ Reflecting upon and evaluating reason behind thoughts, beliefs or actions
- ✓ Applying reasoned approaches or relevant criteria to conceptualize, analyze or make judgements
- ✓ Questioning and analyzing evidence, assertions or assumptions

**ENABLING STUDENTS TO THINK CRITICALLY:**

Teachers design learning opportunities where students ...

- develop and use relevant criteria to guide their thinking and decision making.
- justify their thinking or conclusions with evidence and clear lines of reasoning.
- question, analyze and evaluate information.
- build their capacity for critical thinking by developing background knowledge and using vocabulary and values associated with critical thinking.
- engage in rigorous investigations to make sense of the world.
- challenge the assumptions behind ideas, beliefs or actions from a variety of sources, perspectives and disciplines.
- place a greater value on the process of thinking critically than on task completion.

Source: Gini-Newman, G. & Case, R. (2015). *Creating Thinking Classrooms: Leading educational change for a 21st century world*. Vancouver: The Critical Thinking Consortium.

