CRITICAL THINKING

A Competency Defined in the Ministerial Order for Student Learning #180/2013

LEARNER PROFILE
Critical thinking involves using reasoning and criteria to conceptualize, evaluate, or summarize data. Students reflect on their thinking to improve it. They challenge assumptions, behind thoughts, beliefs, or actions. Students value honesty, fairness, and open-mindedness.

HOW DOES A STUDENT DEMONSTRATE CRITICAL THINKING?

1. QUESTION
   - Question and analyze evidence, arguments, or information.

2. APPLY REASON
   - Apply reasoned approaches or models of thinking to conceptualize, analyze, or make judgements.

3. REFLECT
   - Reflect upon and evaluate thinking carefully and critically.

4. SYNTHESIZE
   - Synthesize thoughts and information to draw defined or extended understandings.

5. DEMONSTRATE
   - Demonstrate intellectual integrity, fairness, and openness.

STRATEGIES AND IDEAS

- Explicitly use critical thinking vocabulary and think the time to teach the meaning of these thinking concepts. Use words like apply, analyze, conclude, synthesize, and evaluate.

- Help students name one another to think more deeply. Have students exchange phrases like “How do you think...?”

- Keep the students busy all the time for the rhythm of content and the skill of pacing.

- Provide opportunities for students to experience a variety of courses and experiences. Critical thinking is a skill that can be practiced in all areas of study.

- Integrate technology to support evidence and discovery.

- Alberta students value intellectual integrity and courage by respectfully challenging or affirming beliefs, values, and actions.

REFERENCE LINKS:
- COMPETENCY INFORMATION SHEETS
- COMPETENCY LEARNING GUIDE
- ALBERTA EDUCATION

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS