**Use this Learning Guide after viewing**

**What is Critical Thinking?**
**www.bit.ly/competencyvideo4**

## Questions for Reflection and Discussion:

- Think of a recent experience that required the application of critical thinking. Drawing upon your own experience, why is the development of this competency important?
- Infusing critical thinking in our programs may require a pedagogical shift. How might you champion that shift in your curriculum/classroom/school? What might look and/or sound different?
- How can a focus on critical thinking help students achieve the learner outcomes? How might it apply and/or look different in your subject area and grade level?
- What strategies and approaches have you incorporated in your program to deepen students' ability to think critically?
- What type of classroom environment supports critical thinking?
- How might we adapt our practice to guide students to develop this competency at varying levels of complexity?
- How might we lead students to approach this competency with a growth mindset and learn to value the reflective process, not just the end product?
- How might we model thinking traits and language in order to integrate this competency in our daily practice and help students practice metacognition?
- Brainstorm examples of what feedback would look like/sound like to foster student growth in for critical thinking.

**For more information:**
The Critical Thinking Consortium
Critical Thinking with Garfield Gini-Newman, ERLC
The Power of Asking Good Questions: Creating a Culture of Critical Thinking, ERLC
iPads in Bloom: Linking iPads and Bloom's Taxonomy
A Revision of Bloom's Taxonomy:
http://www.celt.iastate.edu/pdfs-docs/teaching/RevisedBloomsHandout.pdf
Protocols  Expeditionary Learning, NY State
Concept Attainment, Cult of Pedagogy
Summaries of Critical Challenges  Learn Alberta

## Sample Strategies for Educators:

- Review the learner outcomes in the Programs of Study for your grade level/subject.  How can students learn the outcomes deeply through an intentional focus on developing critical thinking?
- What other strategies have you used to support student development of the competency "Critical Thinking"?
- What are some examples of what the Critical Thinking Competency Indicators might look like in your grade and / or subject area?
- How is critical thinking related to other competencies?
- How can students with different abilities be enabled to think critically?
- What do I need to consider or incorporate when planning for student development of critical thinking?  (Consider using  the "Six Hats Protocol" (a protocol to promote critical thinking), with staff to answer this question)
- How can using the Concept Attainment strategy support the development of critical thinking?
- How can Graphic Organizers be used to support student's development of critical thinking?
- What misconceptions would staff or students have about critical thinking?  How could you address these misconceptions?

## Sample Student Learning Tasks

- **Compare and Contrast** – identify how elements are the same and how they are different;
- **Cause and Effect** – demonstrate underlying causal relationships and resulting effects;
- Infer – speculate or reach a conclusion based on known facts.
- **Organize** – put things in order (sequencing), arranging, classifying or categorizing;
- **Apply** – apply procedures or methods to test a hypothesis, theory or formula.
- **Identify Relationships** – look for trends or patterns, or identify and organize component parts;
- **Estimate** – make estimations and describe and justify estimation strategies;
- **Design** – design devices or experiments to determine solutions to problems (often requires educated judgments about information to propose new solutions).
- **Evaluate Impact** – determine the effects of a plan or strategy;
- **Evaluate Information** – determine what constitutes credible information and explain judgments;
- **Justify and Defend** – formulate and defend a position on a topic or issue.