

Guidelines for Assessment of Critical Thinking Outcome

Outcome

Demonstrate critical thinking skills (Critical thinking skills are those mental behaviors using the structures of thought which enable individuals to consciously and effectively control the manner in which they think and the way in which they judge the product of that thinking by the use of specific intellectual standards. Each intellectual discipline has ways of thinking which apply specifically to the attainment of information and how that information is evaluated and communicated. Demonstration indicates that students **can apply these skills and analyze the degree of success they have in using them**).

Time Allowed for the Assessment

Students should be allowed 60 to 90 minutes for this assessment.

Assessment Methodology

Students will be asked to write an analysis on a topic relevant to the course in which the assessment occurs.

Prior to the assessment, the instructor should review with students the intellectual standards in *The Miniature Guide to Critical Thinking*. The instructor should explain to students they will be responding to a prompt on an examination or a prompt for an in-class paper. They may be given readings and/or other guidelines in advance. In writing the paper, students should strive to write using the skills needed to meet the intellectual standards. They will then be asked to analyze how well they think they emulated each standard in their writing.

To summarize, their assessment is two parts:

- The written analysis
- Their analysis of how well they applied each intellectual standard.