

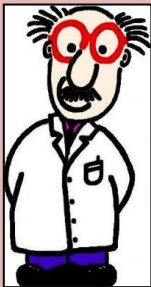


3rd- 5th Grade- Steps in the Critical Thinking Skills

Adapted from Dimensions of Learning (1992) and Classroom Instruction that works (2001)

<p><u>Identify Similarities and Differences</u></p> 	<p>Comparing: describing how things are the same and different</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I find the items to compare 2. I choose features to compare the items 3. I tell how the items are the same or different 	<p>Classifying: grouping things that are alike into categories</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I find items to classify 2. I choose categories into which to sort items 3. I sort identified items 4. I tell how they fit into categories I reclassify items 	<p>Creating a Metaphor: finding and explaining patterns in specific situations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I identify the important information 2. I find a pattern in the information and describe it in a general way 3. I find another example that uses the same pattern and show how it does 	<p>Creating an Analogy: finding relationships between two pairs of items</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I identify how the two items in the first pair are related 2. I state the relationship in a general way 3. I identify another pair of items that share a similar relationship 	
<p><u>Use Analysis Techniques</u></p> 	<p>Analyzing Perspectives: describing different points of view</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I find an idea about which people disagree and tell how they disagree 2. I identify an opinion about the idea 3. I describe the explanation about the opinion 4. I identify a different option and explain it 	<p>Creating an Argument: providing support for a claim</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I notice something and then make a statement about it that needs to be supported with more information 2. I give examples and information to support my statement 3. I give information that explains when my statement does not apply 	<p>Finding Fallacy: finding and describing errors in thinking</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I identify parts of a situation in which someone is trying to get me to believe something 2. I find unusual claims in the information 3. I describe the unusual claims in the information 4. I describe the unusual claims as fallacy(circular reasoning, loaded language, bandwagon) 5. I find ways to correct the error in thinking 	<p>Systems Analysis: viewing something as a system</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I identify something as a system 2. I state all of the parts of the system and how they work 3. I change one part of the system to see what would happen 4. I make a conclusion about how the one change made the system change 5. I repeat the process 	
<p><u>Generate and Test Hypotheses</u></p> 	<p>Decision Making: using characteristics to select from choices that seem equal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I identify a decision that I need to make 2. I identify alternative choices to consider 3. I identify the characteristics to consider 4. I identify the importance of each characteristic 5. I identify the importance of each characteristic by each alternative to select the best one 6. If I need to, I change characteristics or values 	<p>Problem Solving: overcoming barriers in the way of reaching a goal</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I identify the goal 2. I identify the barriers that are in the way of reaching the goal 3. I identify various ways to overcome the barriers 4. I select the best alternative and try it to see if it is effective 5. I try different alternatives and see if they are effective 	<p>Investigation: finding and defending ways to clear up confusion or define a topic such as an event or a concept</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I explain information known about a topic 2. I tell important ideas that are confusing about the topic 3. I find information and examples about the topic 4. I tell a way to clear up the confusion about the topic 	<p>Invention: developing a product or process to meet a need</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I suggest something that can be made or done better 2. I tell a purpose for my invention 3. I set standards 4. I make a model, sketch or draft of my invention 5. I seek feedback about how my invention meets the need 6. I revise and edit my invention until it meets the standards 	<p>Experimental Inquiry: testing and explaining what we observe</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I observe something and describe it 2. I explain what I see and make a prediction that I can test 3. I make and conduct an experiment about my prediction 4. I gather results from the experiment 5. I explain the results based on my prediction