

# Critical Thinker I Can Statements

## Definition of Critical Thinker:

Critical Thinkers identify challenges, determine important information, think about it carefully, and try different ideas to develop solutions. They learn by developing the skills to question, evaluate, and innovate.

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### Criteria with Definitions

**1. Inquiry and Problem Identification**

- The ability to identify problems and generate relevant questions to guide exploration and understanding. A critical thinker will build a foundational understanding of the problem or topic, and the elements it is composed of.

**2. Evidence Evaluation**

- The skill of questioning, gathering, analyzing, and organizing the most appropriate evidence to build understanding and support claims.

**3. Logical Reasoning**

- The ability to analyze something in detail, explain and interpret it, to connect ideas, use evidence to support reasoning, and develop structured arguments.

**4. Perspective Analysis**

- The capacity to recognize, analyze the relative strengths and weaknesses of your sources, and include diverse viewpoints into understanding and problem-solving.

**5. Solution Development**

- The ability to propose solutions, by bringing together evidence, reasoning and claims, and placing together insights from analysis and evaluation and considering how critical thinking might apply in a broader context to refine the solution.

# I Can Statements by Grade Band

## **PreK-4:**

(implied teacher guidance as needed)

### **Inquiry and Problem Identification:**

- I can identify a problem.
- I can ask questions on a topic.
- I can explore solutions.

### **Evidence Evaluation:**

- I can find and sort facts or examples.
- I can find information about a problem.

### **Logical Reasoning:**

- I can connect ideas.
- I can use evidence to explain my thinking.

### **Perspective Analysis:**

- I can recognize and explain differences in viewpoints.

### **Solution Development:**

- I can propose solutions to problems.
- I can support my ideas with reasons and examples.

## **Grades 5-8**

### **Inquiry and Problem Identification:**

- I can independently define problems.
- I can generate questions that guide exploration of the problem.
- I can develop an understanding of a problem or topic.

### **Evidence Evaluation:**

- I can evaluate and organize evidence from multiple sources.
- I can assess the quality and relevance of sources.

### **Logical Reasoning:**

- I can construct logical arguments by connecting evidence and ideas to justify solutions or claims.

### **Perspective Analysis:**

- I can analyze and integrate multiple perspectives into my thinking and problem solving processes.

### **Solution Development:**

- I can develop solutions supported by claims and multiple pieces of evidence.
- I can evaluate the effectiveness of solutions using clear criteria.

## **Grades 9-12**

### **Inquiry and Problem Identification:**

- I can come up with clear questions to help me understand tough problems.
- I can investigate complex problems in depth.

### **Evidence Evaluation:**

- I can evaluate evidence for credibility.
- I can show my understanding by supporting my claims with diverse evidence.
- I can integrate relevant evidence to support ideas.

### **Logical Reasoning:**

- I can explain my reasoning.
- I can create well-developed arguments that incorporate relevant evidence.

### **Perspective Analysis:**

- I can respectfully challenge or question the ideas of others.
- I can evaluate and incorporate alternate or opposing views to strengthen my ideas.

### **Solution Development:**

- I can propose solutions within arguments.
- I can refine my evidence and reasoning.