

# Critical Thinking Rubric

Based on Ennis (2015, pp. 32-33) | Inspired by McMahon, K. (2025) | Adapted by Dr. Med Kharbach

STANDARD	GUIDING QUESTIONS	WEAK (1)	MODERATE (2)	STRONG (3)
<b>Analyze Arguments</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What claim is being made here?</li> <li>2. Does the conclusion follow from the evidence?</li> <li>3. Is the reasoning structured or just persuasive?</li> </ol>	No clear argument; claims without evidence	Some reasoning but gaps in logic	Well-structured, evidence-based argument
<b>Judge Source Credibility</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Where did this information come from?</li> <li>2. Can the source be traced and verified?</li> <li>3. Would you cite this in an academic paper?</li> </ol>	No sources cited or fabricated references	Some sources but hard to verify	Credible, traceable, verifiable sources
<b>Handle Ambiguity</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What exactly does this mean?</li> <li>2. Is the language precise or hiding behind vagueness?</li> <li>3. Could this statement be interpreted differently?</li> </ol>	Vague, misleading, or evasive language	Some unclear terms or hedging	Precise, specific, unambiguous
<b>Evaluate Assumptions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is being taken for granted here?</li> <li>2. What would change if that assumption were wrong?</li> <li>3. What is left unsaid?</li> </ol>	Key assumptions go unexamined	Some assumptions noted but not tested	Assumptions surfaced and critically examined
<b>Recognize Fallacies</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is this convincing because it is logical or because it sounds good?</li> <li>2. Is there a leap in reasoning being glossed over?</li> <li>3. Does correlation get presented as causation?</li> </ol>	Contains obvious logical flaws	Minor leaps or unsupported claims	Logically sound, no fallacies detected
<b>Ask Clarification Questions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is missing from this response?</li> <li>2. If you asked 'how do you know that?' what would happen?</li> <li>3. What follow-up question would expose a weakness?</li> </ol>	Leaves major questions unanswered	Partially explained, some gaps remain	Thorough, anticipates follow-up questions