

EDTE 10 Critical Thinking and the Educated Person
Analysis Paper on Critical Thinking in the Schools [15 points] including Group Activity

How does the K-12 curriculum ask students to engage in higher-order critical thinking?

Pre-Writing

- Choose a specific topic/subject area from one grade level in either elementary or secondary.
- Locate, read and analyze the framework and standards pertinent to your focus.
<http://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st>
- Locate, read and analyze related curriculum materials (textbooks, websites...) (Our library has a curriculum library with textbooks used in K-12).
- Locate, read, discuss and analyze an actual lesson (interview a teacher, find lesson plans on the Internet).
- Compare to what we have been studying in this class including readings, notes, presentations. Take a position, such as: *There are/are not sufficient opportunities for California students to engage in higher order thinking/critical thinking.* Be prepared to argue both sides.
- Participate in a class debate.

Draft (Individual)

- Write a 4 page position paper (audience: an “imaginary board of education”) on the topic of whether there are/are not sufficient opportunities for students (in the age level you have examined) to engage in critical thinking in this subject/content area.
- What critical thinking opportunities exist in the framework/standards (for your topic/subject)? (Be specific about the types of thinking that seemed to be tapped.) How widespread are the opportunities for critical thinking?
- To what degree do the curriculum materials include opportunities?
- To what degree are teachers engaging students in the opportunities?
- What recommendations do you have?
- Include references in APA format.

Peer Response (Must be someone in our class)

- Share your thinking with peers
 - At least one peer feedback to your written draft
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Final Copy

- Proofread (read *aloud*; do not just use spell and grammar check)
- Final copy