

Massachusetts Academy of Mathematics and Science at WPI
Critical Thinking Rubric

Criteria	4	3	2	1
Critical Thinking	Demonstrates evaluation, synthesis, analysis, application, comprehension, and knowledge.	Demonstrates synthesis, analysis, application, comprehension, and knowledge. Does not demonstrate evaluation.	Demonstrates application, comprehension, and knowledge. Does not demonstrate evaluation, synthesis, and analysis.	Demonstrates knowledge. Does not demonstrate evaluation, synthesis, analysis, application, and comprehension.

Descriptors for the Critical Thinking criteria are based on the original Bloom’s Taxonomy and are arranged in the following hierarchy from highest to lowest level of thinking. Examples for each level of thinking include but are not limited to the words in the lists. Some words may appear in different levels of thinking depending on the activity.

- Evaluation: appraise, assess, compare, critique, argue, defend, judge
- Synthesis: combine, develop, design, invent, formulate, predict, extend
- Analysis: investigate, categorize, model, distinguish, differentiate, generalize
- Application: use, choose, solve, make, demonstrate, collect, prepare, produce, practice
- Comprehension: paraphrase, restate, summarize, illustrate, explain, describe, relate, match
- Knowledge: select, locate, identify, name, label, recite, memorize, recognize, state, write, define