

**HOME**

Critical Thinking Skills

Scheffer and Rubenfeld discuss critical thinking habits and critical thinking skills. For each of the critical thinking skills shown below, they give a number of activity statements.

1. Analyzing

- Separating or breaking a whole into parts to discover their nature, functional and relationships.
- "I studied it piece by piece"
- "I sorted things out"

2. Applying Standards

- Judging according to established personal, professional, or social rules or criteria.
- "I judged it according to..."

3. Discriminating

- Recognizing differences and similarities among things or situations and distinguishing carefully as to category or rank.
- "I rank ordered the various..."
- "I grouped things together"

4. Information Seeking

- Searching for evidence, facts, or knowledge by identifying relevant sources and gathering objective, subjective, historical, and current data from those sources
- "I knew I needed to lookup/study..."
- "I kept searching for data."

5. Logical Reasoning

- Drawing inferences or conclusions that are supported in or justified by evidence
- "I deduced from the information that..."
- "My rationale for the conclusion was..."

6. Predicting

- Envisioning a plan and its consequences
- "I envisioned the outcome would be..."
- "I was prepared for..."

7. Transforming Knowledge

- Changing or converting the condition, nature, form, or function of concepts among contexts
- "I improved on the basics by..."
- "I wondered if that would fit the situation of ..."

Courtesy of B. K. Scheffer and M.G. Rubenfeld, "A Consensus Statement on Critical Thinking in Nursing," *Journal of Nursing Education*, 39, 352-9 (2000).

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