The National Council for Excellence in Critical Thinking defines critical thinking as an "intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully conceptualizing, applying. The process tends to help us judge and evaluate situations based on understanding the related data, analyze it, build a clear understanding of the problem, choose the proper solution, and take actions based on the established solution. The critical thinking process prevents our minds from jumping directly to conclusions. "Most formal definitions characterize critical thinking as the intentional application of rational, higher order thinking skills, such as analysis, synthesis, problem recognition and problem solving, inference, and evaluation" (Angelo, 1995, p. 6). "Critical thinking is thinking that assesses itself" (Center for Critical Thinking, 1996b). "Critical thinking is the ability to think about one's thinking in such a way as 1. To Critical thinking has emerged as a cultural value in various times and places, from the Islamic scholars of medieval Central Asia to the secular philosophers of 18th-century America or the scientists and engineers of 21st-century Japan. In each case, critical thinking has taken a slightly different form, sometimes emphasizing skepticism above the other dimensions (as occurred in the European Enlightenment), sometimes emphasizing other dimensions such as creativity or rationality.