Critical thinking definition: 1. the process of thinking carefully about a subject or idea, without allowing feelings or opinions to. Learn more. Add critical thinking to one of your lists below, or create a new one. More. {{name}}. Go to your word lists. {{#verifyErrors}}. {{message}}. {{/verifyErrors}} {{^verifyErrors}} {{#message}}. Critical thinking might be described as the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking. In essence, critical thinking requires you to use your ability to reason. It is about being an active learner rather than a passive recipient of information. Critical thinkers rigorously question ideas and assumptions rather than accepting them at face value. They will always seek to determine whether the ideas, arguments and findings represent the entire picture and are open to finding that they do not.