Critical thinking is the intellectually disciplined process of actively and skillfully -
  • conceptualizing,
  • applying,
  • analyzing,
  • synthesizing, and/or
  • evaluating
information gathered from, or generated by,
  • observation,
  • experience,
  • reflection,
  • reasoning, or
  • communication,
as a guide to belief and action.
www.criticalthinking.org/pages/defining-critical-thinking/796

Critical thinking is –
the ability to think
  • clearly and
  • rationally,
  • understanding the logical connection between ideas.
www.skileyouneed.com/learn/critical-thinking.html
with critical thinking skills can:
understand the links between ideas.
determine the importance and relevance of arguments and ideas.
recognise, build and appraise arguments.
identify inconsistencies and errors in reasoning.
approach problems in a consistent and systematic way.
reflect on the justification of their own assumptions, beliefs and values.

An in-depth analysis of critical thinking strategies can be found at:

http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/defining-critical-thinking/766

In its exemplary form, it is based on universal intellectual values that transcend subject matter divisions:

- clarity,
- accuracy,
- precision,
- consistency,
- relevance,
- sound evidence,
- good reasons,
- depth,
- breadth, and
- fairness.

www.criticalthinking.org/pages/defining-critical-thinking/766