Creative Take on Critical Thinking

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Critical Thinkers are self-guided, self-aware, and self-disciplined. They know that even though they may possess many skills, they can always improve. They reason, rationalize, and empathize. Critical thinkers use logic.

Specific Critical Thinking Skills are:

1. Analysis- Examine, study, investigate, and gain meaning from separate parts
2. Interpretation- Understand/decode/decipher given information and have the ability to not only understand it yourself, but be able to clarify it for others
3. Inference- Make accurate conclusion or hypotheses based on given information
4. Evaluation- Make judgments and decisions using information and one’s own experiences
5. Explanation- Stick to pertinent details and restate, retell for others
6. Self-Regulation- Think about one’s own thinking and course correct, if necessary

What we should see...

criteria being made... relevant questions... reasoning...

   hypothesis... application of precise language...
tests, adjustments, and retests... categorizing of ideas...

And hear... “turn and talk” “pair and share” or “think, pair, share”

   “give one, get one” “prove it another way”
   “cite the proof” “yes way, no way, why?”
## Possibility Chart

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<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Bunk bed</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Lady bug</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Light bulb</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ruler</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>Alligator</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nut</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>Blue jeans</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Jelly beans</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>Glasses</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tongs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Dictionary</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Hula hoop</td>
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<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Teddy bear</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Shoelace</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Couch</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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**Ways to use the Possibility Chart:**

- Similes and metaphors
- Analogies
- Help me! Use elements from one item to improve another
- Anachronisms- when in history would the item be out of place?
- DJ/Advertisements- craftily use the random words in a radio ad
- Parts of a Whole- what else has similar parts, construction?
- Word chains- make a string of words so that one chart word turns into another

**References**


Magner, Laura, *Creativity Tackle Box*. Marion, Illinois, Pieces of Learning, 2008

Magner, Laura, *Critical Thinking and Creative Responses*, 2012