



Intellectual Standards of Critical Thinking

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<http://www.criticalthinking.org/articles/universal-intellectual-standards.cfm>

Clarity	Understandable, the meaning can be grasped. Could you elaborate further? Could you give me an example? Could you illustrate what you mean?
Accuracy	Free from errors or distortions, true How could we check on that? How could we find out if that is true? How could we verify or test that?
Precision	Exact to the necessary level of detail Could you be more specific? Could you give me more details? Could you be more exact?
Relevance	Relating to the matter at hand How does that relate to the problem? How does that bear on the question? How does that help us with the issue?
Depth	Containing complexities and multiple interrelationships What factors make this a difficult problem? What are some of the complexities of this question? What are some of the difficulties we need to deal with?
Breadth	Encompassing multiple viewpoints Do we need to look at this from another perspective? Do we need to consider another point of view? Do we need to look at this in other ways?
Logic	The parts make sense together, no contradictions Does all this make sense together? Does your first paragraph fit in with your last? Does what you say follow from the evidence?
Significance	Focusing on the important, not trivial Is this the most important problem to consider? Is this the central idea to focus on? Which of these facts are most important?
Fairness	Justifiable, not self-serving or one-sided Do I have any vested interest in this issue? Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?

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