

Observation Checklist for Thinking Skills

Observed Thinking Skills	Notes
<p>Interpretation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Describing Describes important concepts and relationships accurately</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Showing Meaning Shows how information has special meaning by connecting it to experiences, knowledge, and beliefs</p> <p>Shows purpose and theme related to information</p>	
<p>Making Inferences</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Making Connections Uses knowledge and experiences to make connections and draw inferences</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring Uses knowledge, experiences, and sound reasoning to make connections and draw inferences</p> <p>Modifies inferences and makes new ones continuously</p>	
<p>Evaluation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Analyzing Persuasive Arguments Differentiates between sound reasoning and faulty reasoning strategies in persuasive arguments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Forming Opinions Bases opinion on good evidence synthesized from multiple, credible sources</p> <p>Shows understanding of complexity of issue by investigating and synthesizing information from different viewpoints</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Communicating States opinion clearly and supports it with several good reasons from reliable sources</p> <p>Communicates deep understanding of complexity of issue</p>	
<p>Commitment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Effort Puts forth effort to find out about an issue before forming an opinion</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Persistence Waits to form an opinion until finding enough information</p> <p>Changes mind when confronted with new evidence</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Accuracy Takes pride in accuracy of work</p>	

<p>Reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Predicting Makes reasonable predictions based on thorough understanding of the subject area <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Revises predictions if necessary</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing Conclusions Uses personal experiences, knowledge, and thorough understanding of information to make inferences and draw meaningful conclusions <input type="checkbox"/> Determining Cause and Effect Identifies multiple causes and effects <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Prioritizes causes by their impact</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Differentiates between correlation and causation</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Creates visual representations that show the relationships among causes and effects in complex systems</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating Explains reasoning processes and conclusions clearly and thoroughly 	
<p>Argumentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Making a Claim Clearly states claim <input type="checkbox"/> Finding and Evaluating Evidence Applies standards of quality to evidence used to support claim <input type="checkbox"/> Audience Awareness Considers audience when forming an argument and includes appropriate information <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Addresses counterarguments</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating Describes claim and evidence clearly and thoroughly <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Cites sources</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Organizes argument so it has the greatest impact</p> 	
<p>Decision Making</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Creating Options Uses a variety of reasoning strategies to weigh options and choose the best one <input type="checkbox"/> Predicting Consequences Predicts consequences of options <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Evaluates impact on self and others</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Communicating Explains reasons for decision carefully and in detail 	