



Key Definitions of Critical Thinking

- Gibbs and Gambrill (1999) define critical thinking as: “the careful examination and evaluation of beliefs, and actions. It requires paying attention to the process of reasoning, not just the product”.
- Thayer-Bacon (2000): “Consider all aspects of a case, looking at strengths and weaknesses in a position. Once the dichotomy between two positions is considered, critical thinking seeks a synthesis that allows a person to bring together opposing viewpoints . Critical thinking requires that workers see discrepancies, ask questions to explore the meaning of what was heard, before making a decision.”

Gibbs, L., & Gambrill, E. (1999). *Critical thinking for social workers: Exercises for the helping profession(s)*.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge.

Thayer-Bacon, B. (2000). *Transforming Critical Thinking: Constructive Thinking*. New York, NY: Teachers College Press.

3 Integral Steps in the Critical Thinking Process

