

# SELF-ASSESSMENT: CRITICAL THINKING – SYNTHESISING IDEAS AND INFORMATION

Rate yourself on each statement:

- In need of improvement
- My skills are emerging
- I'm meeting the standards
- I'm exceeding the expectations

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Category	In need of improvement	My skills are emerging	I'm meeting the standards	I'm exceeding the expectations
Combining Ideas	I struggle to combine information from different sources or viewpoints	I sometimes combine ideas but connections may be unclear	I usually combine ideas from different sources into a coherent whole	I consistently integrate ideas effectively, showing strong understanding of connections
Creating New Understanding	I rarely develop new insights from information I learn	I sometimes generate insights but they may be limited	I often create new understanding or perspectives by connecting ideas	I consistently generate fresh insights that demonstrate deep and original thinking
Application of Synthesis	I rarely apply combined ideas to new contexts or problems	I sometimes apply synthesised ideas, but not always effectively	I usually apply synthesised ideas to explain, solve problems, or make decisions	I consistently apply synthesis effectively in complex or unfamiliar contexts
Communicating Synthesis	I rarely explain how I combined ideas or reached new conclusions	I sometimes explain my synthesis but with limited clarity	I usually communicate how I synthesised ideas clearly	I consistently communicate synthesis with clarity, showing logical and creative links



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## Reflective questions

1. How do I usually combine information from different sources or perspectives?
2. When have I been able to generate new insights by connecting ideas?
3. How can I improve my ability to apply and communicate synthesis more clearly?

## Guidelines for action

1. Identify Strengths and Growth Areas
  - Highlight one area where you already synthesise ideas effectively.
  - Highlight one area where you can improve.
2. Set a SMART Goal
  - Example: "I will practise combining ideas from at least three different sources when writing essays."
3. Choose an Action Step
  - Pick one practice to strengthen immediately (e.g., making concept maps, comparing themes across sources, summarising connections).
4. Monitor Your Progress
  - Keep a weekly reflection: How did I synthesise ideas this week? What worked?
5. Seek Feedback
  - Ask a teacher, mentor, or peer how well you combined and communicated different ideas.
6. Review and Reassess
  - After 6–8 weeks, retake the self-assessment.
  - Reflect on your progress and set a new synthesis goal.

