



The Art of Engaging Students through

Critical Thinking



Rob Jenkins
ELITE 2016



Building Community





“Nurturing our students is not giving them everything. We are good instructors when we nurture their creativity, critical thinking skills, and independence ultimately leading them to become independent lifelong learners.”

Jenkins (2008)

Survey 



REAL Critical Thinking One sentence definition Activity★

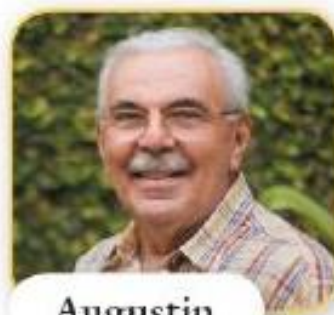
“Tasks that require learners to think deeper than the superficial vocabulary and meaning”.

Rob Jenkins 2016



Silvia

Breakfast: cereal and milk
Lunch: green salad and fruit juice
Dinner: spaghetti with meatballs and ice



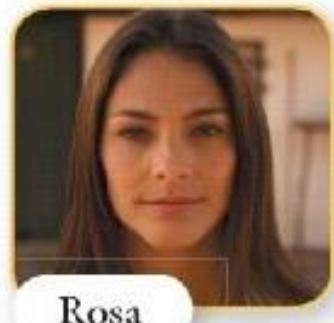
Augustin

Breakfast: coffee
Lunch: sausage, beans, rice, and water
Dinner: cheese, bread, green salad, and fruit



Fernando

Breakfast: fruit, cereal, milk, and toast
Lunch: pepperoni pizza and milk
Dinner: fried chicken and a baked potato



Rosa

Breakfast: coffee
Lunch: soup, bread, fruit, and yogurt
Dinner: turkey, potatoes, green salad, and water



Gilberto

Breakfast: doughnut and coffee
Lunch: hamburger, fries, and a soda
Dinner: pepperoni pizza and water

RANK – most to least nutritious diet

#1

#2

#3

#4

#5

REAL Critical Thinking Standards
in Collaborative Groups ★





Critical Thinking Attributes

Classifying ★

Asking Questions	Making Judgments	Identifying Assumptions	Analyzing while suspending judgment



Critical Thinking Quick Adjustments Ranking★

- analyzing data (graphs, charts)★
- classifying★
- collaborating over a problem★
- comparing (VENN, Johari, charts)★
- defining concepts★
- evaluating information with a rubric★
- individually solving problems★
- predicting outcomes★
- ranking★
- reaching consensus★
- summarizing concepts★



Project-Based / Problem-Based Learning

Project-based learning puts students in the position to use authentic language to communicate and produce a product or solve a problem.
(Fried-Booth)

In teams students negotiate, plan and organize, practicing skills essential to living successful lives.
(Stein)

In this project, you will plan a family menu. You are a family of four or five people. You have \$150 for food for the next week. What can you make for breakfast, lunch, and dinner? Make a menu and go shopping.

1. **COLLABORATE** Form a team of four or five students. In your team, you need:

Position	Job description	Student name
Student 1: Team Leader	Check that everyone speaks English. Check that everyone participates.	
Student 2: Chef	Plan meals for the family with help from the team.	
Student 3: Shopper	Write a shopping list for the family with help from the team.	
Students 4/5: Spokespeople	Prepare a class presentation with help from the team.	

2. Choose a name for your family.
3. Fill in a calendar with your meal plans for breakfast, lunch, and dinner for one week.
4. Make a shopping list. How much of each item do you need? Estimate the prices of the items on your list. Make sure the total is under \$150.
5. Write a recipe for one of your meals.
6. Make a family presentation to the class. Tell the class about the meals on your menu. How much money will you spend? How much money will be left? What can you do with the money that will be left over?



Meal planning is very important. Eating leftover food for lunch the following day can help save money.



PBL

SCANS AND PBL

PERSONAL QUALITIES

Responsibility

Self Esteem

Sociability

Self-Management

INTERPERSONAL

Participates as a member of a team

Teaches others

Exercises leadership

Works with diversity

BASIC SKILLS

Reading

Writing

Arithmetic

Listening

Speaking

THINKING SKILLS

Creative thinking

Decision making

Problem solving



PBL

SCANS AND PBL

RESOURCES

Allocates Materials and
Facility Resources
Allocates Human Resources

TECHNOLOGY

Applies technology to task
(optional)

INFORMATION

Organizes and maintains
information
Interprets and communicates
information
Uses computers to process
information



Thank You!

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