



## Critical Thinking: Suggestions



Critical thinking is one of the eight skill areas identified as being important for students to learn in order to be successful leaders in their lives. We believe that these skills can be taught every day in the lessons and activities you provide to your students. Below are suggestions and questions to help facilitate the development of this skill area when you find a lesson plan that is marked as utilizing “critical thinking”.

### Suggestions:

- Specifically point out the ways in which the lesson utilizes critical thinking
  - Discuss why they need to utilize a more in depth thinking process
  - Discuss the process they will need to use in order to reach their goal
- If the lesson involves the student working alone – get them to explain how they reached their conclusion
- If the lesson involves students working together – discuss how they were able to collaborate to come up with even better solutions
- Help students practice their skills by asking them time to develop each step in their process – gathering information, evaluating it, and making sense of everything
- Point out ways that practicing critical thinking can help build leadership
  - Developing a way to solve problems
  - Having the knowledge to back up decision making
  - Helping yourself and others reach their goals
- Look at the additional resources for Critical Thinking on the imaleaderpa.org website

### Questions:

- Why does this activity require critical thinking as opposed to a more simplistic method?
- What is the question or problem that you need to address?
- What information do you need to know or gather to reach your end goal?
- How will you make connections between the information?
- What inferences did you have to make?
  - Were they right or wrong?
  - What can you do differently next time?
- How did the use of critical thinking help the person in this video/story?
  - What was their process?