

**UNIVERSAL CONSTRUCT: CRITICAL THINKING**

**CRITICAL THINKING** is the ability to access and analyze key information to develop solutions to complex problems that may have no clear answer. It incorporates reflective and visionary processes. Critical thinking utilizes abstractions and non-rules based strategies to guide decisions, behaviors and actions.<sup>1</sup>

4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
<p><b>Sample 1:</b> Students identify the elements and/or principles of art and design present in an artistic work.</p> <p>Students investigate the element’s and/or principle’s impact by envisioning and illustrating the results of an alternative design choice in a cause and effect (“If, and then . . .”) writing.</p>	<p><b>Sample 1:</b> Students analyze to determine the noteworthy elements and/or principles employed in an artistic work.</p> <p>Students engage in small group discussions to challenge, explain and justify the reasons for and against a design component’s impact.</p> <p>After listening to peers, questioning beliefs, and clarifying assumptions, students individually compose evaluative statements for a critique using analysis to justify artistic choices.</p>	<p><b>Sample 1:</b> Through the use of a class blog or wiki, students view and critique personal and peer created works of art dealing with a specific artistic problem.</p> <p>Students mutually agree upon the criteria for an online discussion (options could include: the decision making process, intentional compositional use of elements and principles of art and design, engagement of the viewer in visual qualities, personal vision or “voice,” etc.).</p> <p>Then, students collaborate to describe, analyze, interpret and make informed judgments about each work’s success employing the discussion criteria as evidence and justification of how artistic choices impact meaning.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Iowa Department of Education, Universal Constructs Essential for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Success

***This Universal Construct addresses this 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Map outcomes.***

*OUTCOME 1: Students will use various types of reasoning to think and reflect critically and solve problems in both conventional and innovative ways.<sup>2</sup>*

\*As any Universal Construct can be embedded, additional constructs may be presented in the sample.

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<sup>2</sup> Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Map for The Arts (Critical Thinking)