

York Technical College (YTC) has created an exciting process to enhance the quality of student learning by improving critical thinking skills. Critical thinking is a thought process involving skills in application, analysis, synthesis, and/or evaluation of information using observation, reasoning, experience, reflection, and/or communication. Critical thinking is a conscious mental activity in which the thinking process is guided by clear standards. Critical thinking helps us to reach conclusions, solve problems, and/or guide actions which promote success in school, business and life.

As you can see, critical thinking is very important, and we here at YTC hope to help students develop their critical thinking skills to enhance not only their success here at the college but also provide them with skills to use for the rest of their lives. Many of your classes will use the YTC critical thinking model which has several steps that are part of the critical thinking process.

**Identify:** Recognize and define the root problem, situation or question.

**Gather:** Assemble information.

**Examine:** Analyze information for relevancy.

**Formulate:** Devise a plan.

**Apply:** Implement the plan.

**Evaluate:** Judge the results.

**Reflect:** Think about the process.

You probably already use many of these steps, and it is our goal to help you further develop your critical thinking skills. Those who have strong critical thinking skills tend to come up with solutions to problems which are very logical. They are not tied down to one side of an issue. They tend to look at things from multiple angles. So whether you are in class, at work, or at home, we hope you'll find that the critical thinking process helps you solve problems and think logically.

Our goal is to build a learning environment that promotes critical thinking. We are so glad that you will be a part of this exciting time at our college.