

Quinnipiac University Creative Thinking Essential Learning Outcome Rubric

Creative Thinking is defined as both the capacity to combine or synthesize existing ideas, or expertise in original ways and the experience of thinking, reacting, and working in an imaginative way characterized by a high degree of innovation, divergent thinking, and risk-taking.

Criteria/Scoring Level	1-Ineffective	2-Effective	3-Advanced	4-Outstanding
Acquiring Competencies <i>(acquiring strategies and skills within a particular domain or discipline)</i> and Taking Risks	Only uses/reproduces an existing model. Does not go above and beyond the guidelines of the assignment	Successfully adapts an appropriate exemplar to his/her own specifications. Considers new directions or approaches without going beyond the guidelines of the assignment.	Creates an entirely new object, solution or idea that is appropriate to the domain. Incorporates new directions or approaches to the assignment in the final product.	Creates, reflects and evaluates creative process and product using domain-appropriate criteria. Actively seeks out and follows through on untested and potentially risky directions or approaches to the assignment in the final product.
Solving Problems and Innovative Thinking	Does not consider alternative approaches to solve the problem or find the best solution. Only able to reformulate a collection of available ideas.	Considers and rejects less acceptable approaches to solving problem. Experiments with creating a novel or unique idea, question, or product.	Having selected from among alternatives, develops a logical, consistent plan to solve the problem. Creates a novel or unique idea, question, format, or product.	Not only develops a logical, consistent plan to solve problem, but recognizes consequences of solution and can articulate reason for choosing solution. Extends a novel or unique idea, question, format, or product to create new knowledge or knowledge that crosses boundaries.
Inquiry into Contradictions/Alternative Perspectives	Does not acknowledge alternate, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas.	Includes (recognizes the value of) alternate, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas in a small way.	Utilizes alternative, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas in an exploratory way.	Utilizes alternative, divergent, or contradictory perspectives or ideas fully.
Connecting, Synthesizing, Transforming	Only able to recognize existing connections among ideas or solutions.	Connects ideas or solutions in novel ways.	Synthesizes ideas or solutions into a coherent whole.	Transforms ideas or solution into entirely new forms.