

Categories or Types of Critical Challenges

A critical challenge is a student learning activity carefully designed to foster critical thinking skills by having students engage in gathering relevant information on an important question or issue, constructing alternative positions or solutions, assessing the choices and presenting a case to support the selected option.

Critique the Piece

Students assess the merits/shortcoming of a designated figure, product or performance (either student provided or teacher provided)

Are our questions about...powerful?
Good/bad

Judge the better or best

Students judge from among two or more options (teacher provided or student generated) which one(s) best meet(s) the identified criteria.

Is Cuthbert a hero or a scoundrel?
Is it better to live then or now?

Rework the piece

Students transform a product of performance in light of additional information or an assigned focus, perspective, genre, etc.

Find a powerful metaphor for an aspect of Canadian life.
Rewrite in another voice (perspective).

Decode the puzzle

Students suggest and justify a proposed solution, explanation or interpretation to a confusing or enigmatic situation.

Identify the problem confronting these individuals.

Design to specs

Students develop a product that meets a given set of criteria/conditions.

Design an ideal community.
Create a map.

Perform to specs

Students perform or undertake a course of action that meets a given set of criteria/conditions.

Design and implement a plan to improve an aspect of your community.

