

Appendix C

Example CT Standards

(Two examples of CT standards; adapted from Paul¹)

Purpose - All reasoning has a purpose

Good Reasoners	Bad Reasoners	Feedback to Students
Take the time to state their purpose clearly	Are often unclear about their central purpose	(-) You have not made the purpose of your reasoning clear. What are you trying to achieve? Whom are you trying to persuade?
Periodically remind themselves of their purpose to determine whether they are straying from it	Lose track of their fundamental end or goal	(-) After the 2 nd paragraph you seem to wander from your purpose. (+) I like the way you periodically show the reader how the points you are making add up to a central conclusion.
Adopt realistic purposes and goals	Adopt unrealistic purposes, set unrealistic goals	(-) You try to accomplish too much in so short a paper. (+) You make a wise decision not to try to accomplish too much. Accomplishing a little well is almost always better than failing in a grand and sweeping design.

Inference & Conclusion - All reasoning contains inferences by which we draw conclusions and give meaning to data

Good Reasoners	Bad Reasoners	Feedback to Students
Make inferences that are clear and precise	Often make unclear inferences	(-) It is not clear what your main conclusion is. (+) Your reasoning is very clear and easy to follow.
Usually make inferences that follow from the evidence or reasons presented	Often make inferences that do not follow from the evidence or reasons presented.	(-) The conclusion you come to does not follow from the reasons presented. (+) You justify your conclusion well with supporting evidence and good reasons.
Often make inferences that are deep rather than superficial	Often make inferences that are superficial	(-) Your conclusion is justified, but it seems superficial, given the problem. (+) Your central conclusion is well-thought-out and goes right to the heart of the issue.

Notes

¹ Richard Paul, *Critical Thinking: What Every Person Needs To Survive In A Rapidly Changing World*, (Santa Rosa, CA: Foundation for Critical Thinking, 1993), 157.