

**Associate Level Material**

**Appendix A**

**Stages of Critical Thinking**

Complete the matrix by identifying the six stages of critical thinking, describing how to move from each stage to the next, and listing the major characteristics of each stage in the last column of critical thinking.

Stages of Critical Thinking	How to Move to the Next Stage	Major Characteristics of the Next Stage
1. The Identifying Problem Stage The Challenge Stage	1. Clarify the thinking, identify the problem, and affect the thinking. Challenge the status, with constructive alternatives, increasing focus of thinking on facts. May use necessary means, review, find, clarify, better, find, or require different solutions, thinking about thinking, applying theories, with challenge, freedom, or increasing scope (the order of thinking or facts, but also different in thinking of strength, comparison, selection).	1. Clarify the goal about the effectiveness of the thinking.
2. The Defining Problem Stage	2. Clarify the goal of the thinking, with challenge, freedom, or increasing scope (the order of thinking or facts, but also different in thinking of strength, comparison, selection).	2. Clarify the goal about the effectiveness of the thinking.
3. The Defining Problem Stage	3. Clarify the goal of the thinking, with challenge, freedom, or increasing scope (the order of thinking or facts, but also different in thinking of strength, comparison, selection).	3. Clarify the goal about the effectiveness of the thinking.
4. The Defining Problem Stage	4. Clarify the goal of the thinking, with challenge, freedom, or increasing scope (the order of thinking or facts, but also different in thinking of strength, comparison, selection).	4. Clarify the goal about the effectiveness of the thinking.
5. The Defining Problem Stage	5. Clarify the goal of the thinking, with challenge, freedom, or increasing scope (the order of thinking or facts, but also different in thinking of strength, comparison, selection).	5. Clarify the goal about the effectiveness of the thinking.
6. The Defining Problem Stage	6. Clarify the goal of the thinking, with challenge, freedom, or increasing scope (the order of thinking or facts, but also different in thinking of strength, comparison, selection).	6. Clarify the goal about the effectiveness of the thinking.