



Bethel's R.E.A.L. Experience Skills & Sample Artifacts

Skill: Critical Thinking & Complex Problem Solving

Definition

An individual developing in critical thinking and complex problem solving will exercise sound reasoning to analyze issues, make decisions, and overcome problems. This individual is able to obtain, interpret, and use knowledge, facts, and data in this process, and may demonstrate originality and inventiveness.

National Association of Colleges and Employers. (2017). *Career Readiness Defined*. Retrieved from <http://www.naceweb.org/career-readiness/competencies/career-readiness-defined/>

Indicators

1. Curiosity; rarely content to take things at face value
2. Ability to Discern a path forward after weighing many options
3. Courage to question the status quo
4. Creativity to think of good questions worth asking
5. The desire and ability to actively look for problems in order to critically and creatively find solutions; ie: Design Thinking.

Examples

- I wrote an op-ed for the Clarion challenging a popular opinion present in my home church's community about the relationship between Christian spirituality and mental health.
- I practiced critical thinking to engage in healthy debate and dialogue on a number of different topics while on Bethel's debate team.
- In my Electronics Lab, I used critical thinking and problem solving skills to build and test circuits, and then make changes when necessary.

Sample Artifact

Want to see an example of how a real Bethel student developed skills in critical thinking & complex problem solving? Check out [Micah Latty's paper, "Welcoming Silence"](#), shown here representing the Elie Wiesel Foundation Prize in Ethics Essay Contest.