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Assessing Critical Thinking BETH THACKER, Texas Tech University — Based on the basic features of cognitive structure, it is possible to write an operational definition of critical thinking for use in assessment and in the development of assessment instruments. We discuss the need to assess critical thinking skills, in addition to content knowledge, problem solving and other skills, and the need for the inclusion of this type of assessment in the evaluation of changes in instructional methods and the comparison of classes taught by different instructional methods.

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