Checklist for Critical Thinking
Checklists can help you keep track of your work. Use the following checklist to make sure you complete the task for each activity. If you have access to a printer, you may want to print the checklist for reference as you work through the activities. Ask your teacher for help if you have any questions about the checklist.

Activity 1: Thinking Skills
Task: News Article Analysis
☐ Read a news article about a complex topic
☐ Open a new word processing document and type your name, date, and a title
☐ Use critical thinking skills to analyze the news story, and address the following questions:
  ☐ What *purpose* did the author have for writing the story?
  ☐ What *questions* did the author attempt to answer in the story?
  ☐ Did the author provide adequate *information* to answer these questions?
  ☐ What *concepts* did the author develop from the information provided?
  ☐ What *conclusions* did the author draw from those concepts?
☐ Check the spelling and grammar of your analysis
☐ Save your document

Activity 2: Polling Data
Task: Poll Analysis
☐ Respond to an online poll
☐ Open a new word processing document and type your name, date, and a title
☐ Use critical thinking skills to analyze the poll results, and answer the following questions:
  ☐ What is the *purpose* of the poll?
  ☐ How do the *question(s)* asked in the poll address its purpose?
  ☐ What kind of *information* does the poll provide?
  ☐ What *ideas* or *concepts* are used in the poll?
  ☐ What *conclusions* can you draw from poll results?
☐ Check the spelling and grammar of your analysis
☐ Save your document

Activity 3: Topic Choice
Task: Topic Choice
☐ Open a new word processing document and type your name, date, and a title
☐ Choose an appropriate topic, and be sure that:
  ☐ People will have different opinions about the topic
  ☐ The topic is narrow and focused
  ☐ Enough sources are available to research the topic
☐ Answer the questions:
  ☐ Why do you want to learn more about the topic?
  ☐ Why do you think the topic will make a good poll?
  ☐ What are some different points of view about the topic?
☐ Check the spelling and grammar of your document
☐ Save your document

Activity 4: Research Questions
Task: Questions
☐ Open a new word processing document and type your name, date, and a title
☐ Use critical thinking skills to write research questions for your topic
☐ Include different types of questions, including:

- Factual: To help you understand the topic
- Convergent: To delve deeper into an issue
- Divergent: To understand different aspects of an issue
- Evaluative: To understand various points of view on the topic
- Be sure that your questions address the following:
  - What is the *purpose* of your research?
  - How do your research *questions* address the purpose of your research?
  - What kind of *information* do your research questions provide?
  - What ideas or *concepts* can you develop from the information?
  - What *conclusions* might you be able to draw from your research?
- Check the spelling and grammar of your questions
- Save your document

Activity 5: Online Research

Task: Source List

- Open a new word processing document and type your name, date, and a title
- Find and bookmark sources to research your topic
- Make sure sources are:
  - Credible
  - Accurate
  - Reliable
- List sources in your document
- Save your document