

High School Reasoning Checklist

This checklist can be used by students or teachers to assess reasoning skills.

Forming and Supporting Opinions

- Values well-reasoned opinions
- Puts forth effort necessary to form good opinions
- Focuses on validity of argument rather than personal feelings
- Recognizes subtle manipulations of facts used to persuade
- Identifies own assumptions
- Identifies assumptions of others

Drawing Conclusions

- Uses personal experiences and knowledge to make inferences and draw conclusions
- Uses thorough understanding of systems within topic to make inferences and draw conclusions
- Draws conclusions that add meaning and insight

Logical Thinking

- Uses deductive reasoning to make generalizations
- Uses inductive reasoning to understand unfamiliar concepts
- Uses "If...then..." statements to draw conclusions about relationships

Determining Cause and Effect

- Describes multiple cause-and-effect relationships in a system
- Differentiates between causation and correlation
- Creates detailed visual representations of inter-related systems that show causes and effects

Communication

- Uses appropriate subject-area language to explain conclusions and reasoning
- Uses language of logical thinking to explain conclusions and reasoning