

# What is the relationship BETWEEN CRITICAL THINKING AND INFORMATION LITERACY?

UNO's revised general education program combines **critical thinking** and **information literacy** into a single transferable outcome because they are deeply interconnected and often function in tandem.

## Both involve the ability to:

- Ask meaningful questions
- Locate and evaluate sources of evidence
- Analyze information for relevance, credibility, and bias
- Synthesize findings to form well-reasoned conclusions
- Apply insights to solve problems or make decisions

Together, these skills support a student's capacity to make thoughtful, informed, and ethical judgments in academic, civic, and professional contexts.

**Example:** A student researching climate policy must **critically evaluate** competing viewpoints, **locate credible data**, **analyze its implications**, and **argue a position** using both reasoning and evidence. This task draws significantly on critical thinking and information literacy.

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#### EACH SKILL HAS ITS OWN FOCUS AND SET OF COMPETENCIES.

Aspect	Critical Thinking	Information Literacy
Core Focus	Reasoning, logic, and judgment	Locating, evaluating, and using information effectively
Key Abilities	<ul><li>Analyze arguments</li><li>Identify assumptions</li><li>Draw logical conclusions</li></ul>	<ul><li>Find sources</li><li>Assess credibility</li><li>Integrate and cite sources</li></ul>
Questions Asked	"Is this argument sound?" "What are the implications?"	"Is this source credible?" "Is this information relevant?"
Primary Output	Well-reasoned claims and problem-solving strategies	Well-supported, evidence-based arguments or projects
Assessment Emphasis	Quality of reasoning, clarity, reflection	Use of sources, evaluation of information, documentation

### Why This Matters in General Education

UNO combines these outcomes to reflect the **real-world complexity of decision-making**—students rarely need just one or the other. For instance:

- Critical thinking ensures students reason well.
- Information literacy ensures they reason with credible information.

By mastering both, students are better prepared to:

- Navigate a world saturated with information (and misinformation)
- Make responsible, evidence-based decisions
- Communicate clearly and persuasively across fields

## Additional Resources at MavEd.unomaha.edu

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