**Critical Thinking Definitions - 12/2/2014 IR**

**USFSM Pillar**
Critical Thinking: Students will demonstrate the skills necessary to be proficient critical thinkers.

**Foundation for Critical Thinking**
Definition: Critical thinking is the art of analyzing and evaluating thinking with a view to improving it.

A well-cultivated critical thinker:
1. **Raises vital questions and problems**, formulating them clearly and precisely;
2. **Gathers and assesses relevant information**, using abstract ideas to interpret it effectively;
3. **Comes to well-reasoned conclusions and solutions**, testing them against relevant criteria and standards;
4. **Thinks open-mindedly** within alternative systems of thought, recognizing and assessing, as need be, their assumptions, implications, and practical consequences; and
5. **Communicates effectively** with others in figuring out solutions to complex problems.