



NC Department of Health and Human Services

NC Nurse Aide I Curriculum

Module O Critical Thinking

July 2019

Objectives

- **Define and describe the importance of the nurse aide using critical thinking skills while performing resident care**
- **Discuss the importance of critical thinking**
- **Discuss five questions that nurse aides should ask in order to think critically**

Critical Thinking

Exercising or involving careful judgment based on facts and observations

- **Required to provide safe, competent care to residents in a variety of situations**
- **Developed through real-life experiences, education, communication, observation and practical application**
- **Incorporated into thought processes and daily activities**

Critical Thinking - Importance

- **Allows the nurse aide to put theory into practice when caring for the resident**
- **Allows the nurse aide to administer care in a safe confident manner**
- **Requires the use of sound judgment in a variety of situations**
- **Helps the nurse aide identify situations that deviate from the norm**



Critical Thinking – Questions to ask

- **What problem do I need to solve?**
 - **Who should be involved in the process?**
- **What information do I need?**
 - **How do I determine it is accurate?**
- **How do I solve the problem?**
 - **What are the advantages and disadvantages?**
- **What am I missing?**



Critical Thinking - Quote

“Critical thinking is important because it is what makes us adaptable, enables us to act independently, and allows us to move beyond what we already know or guess.”



W. E. B. Du Bois