



Integrate Critical Thinking Across Any Subject With Real Scenarios

Help students build their critical thinking skills using timely, engaging scenarios rooted in real-world decisions and performance tasks.

A key component of CAE's Critical Thinking Skills Program is real-world scenarios that immerse students in authentic decision making. Students are asked to analyze evidence, weigh competing priorities, and communicate their recommendations clearly. These scenarios aren't just engaging exercises, they're high-impact tools that build transferable skills like critical thinking, communication, and problem solving across majors and academic levels.



Sample Topics

Below are sample topics that could be used in CAE's Critical Thinking Skills Program to help students apply and strengthen their critical thinking skills. CAE can also customize scenarios to align with your specific program, area of study, and institutional goals.



BUSINESS

- **Finance** – Advise a major bank on whether to acquire a small-town community bank.
- **Business Management** – Recommend a solution to address the rise in retail shoplifting linked to self-checkout systems.
- **Business Strategy / Accounting** – Help a small business choose between launching a brick-and-mortar store or an e-commerce platform.
- **Human Resources** – Decide on the best approach to resolve a hiring pipeline bottleneck to meet staffing goals.



SOCIAL SCIENCE

- **Microplastics** – Endorse a campaign strategy: educate the public or advocate for policy change?
- **Urban Development** – Advise a town board on historic preservation vs. economic growth.
- **Medical Policy** – Recommend whether hospitals should shift to disposable plastic tools.
- **Gene Editing** – Take a stance on the ethics of gene editing in humans, animals, or products.
- **Traffic Congestion** – Choose a solution for urban congestion: implement congestion pricing or expand public transit?
- **Self-Driving Vehicles** – Advise the city council on the regulation of autonomous taxi fleets.



HUMANITIES

- **Classics / History** – Take a position on the Social War in ancient Rome using historical documents.
- **Art** – Advise a gallery on whether AI-generated art should be included.
- **Maritime History** – Choose to restore or preserve shipwreck artifacts as-is for museum display.



STEM

- **Physics** – Recommend an approach to feed gorillas without disturbing their natural habitat.
- **Computer Science** – Advise your company on the best cybersecurity tool based on performance data.
- **Agriculture** – Determine whether to use controlled burns and recommend the most effective irrigation method.
- **Engineering/Materials Science** – Select the best screen material that meets manufacturing standards.

Build the Skills That Matter Most

Help your students improve the critical thinking skills that lead to stronger academic performance, career readiness, and measurable institutional outcomes. Learn more about CAE's Critical Thinking Skills Program at cae.org/critical-thinking-skills-program