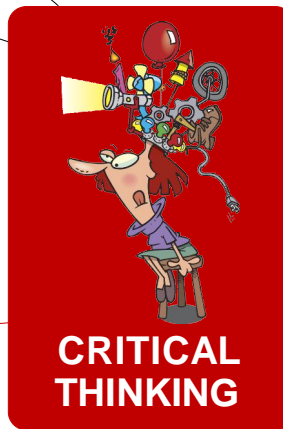


CRITICAL THINKING is a continuous, purposeful, and reflective process about what to believe, do, think, or learn. It is fact based, hypothesis-driven, and structured thinking. It uses systematic and objective methods to solve problems and liberates you from inaccuracies, biases, and misleading information.

(Adapted from *Agile Critical Thinking Toolkit* and *American Management Association*)



ASSUMPTIONS are statements that are implied to be true without proof

1. Recognize Assumptions

Distinguish fact from opinion

- What is the basis of your opinion?
- What evidence do you have to support it?
- Why do you believe the information is accurate?
- Why do you think this would apply to this problem?

Consider relevance

- What assumptions are you making?
- Why do you believe your assumptions apply to this situation?
- What assumptions do you think other people are making?
- If we were to shift our assumptions, how would that affect our decision?

Seek alternative viewpoints

- How do you see the situation?
- Why do you see it this way?
- What were you expecting to see?
- How do you see this playing out in the future?
- How might the situation be different if different assumptions were made?

ARGUMENT is a line of reasoning intended to communicate a position in convincing manner

2. Evaluate Arguments

Be aware of persuasion techniques

- What's in it for me?
- What's their intent?
- What are the consequences?

Recognize bias

- Is this statement free of judgment?
- Is there confirmation bias?

Check strong emotions

- How is emotion affecting the way information is being presented to you?
- How are your emotions affecting your ability to think critically?
- How would you interpret the same data if strong emotions were not at play?

CONCLUSIONS are positions that are derived based on information or belief

3. Draw Conclusions

- Where does the data come from?
- Why consider the data?
- Is data relevant?
- What's most important?
- What does the data say?
- How else can the data be interpreted?

Weigh data carefully

- How many sources are used and for what purpose?
- Are there other source that could be used?

Use multiple sources

- Who should critique your work and why?
- What do you want them to do?

Ask others to critique

- www.visual-literacy.org/periodic_table/periodic_table.html
- www.conciselearning.com/visualmapping.html

Diagram for understanding