

COMPONENTS OF CRITICAL THINKING

TODAY'S AGENDA

- You will:
 - Distinguish the nature of critical thinking from thinking
 - Analyze components of critical thinking
 - Think about how you can utilize these tools to build your own capacity for CT



THE MIND AND TRAINING

- The best mind training recognizes natural tendencies and learns to discriminate between what is good and what is not

"A man who does not think for himself does not think at all."

~Oscar Wilde

THE NATURAL RESOURCES

- Funds of material in which to draw upon
 - Previous experiences, “stored” information
- Promptness, Flexibility, and Fertility
 - Quick alternatives which can develop
- Order and appropriateness
 - Fitting pieces together in a relevant and timely manner

WHAT IS THINKING?

- “Thinking is any mental activity that helps formulate or solve a problem, make a decision, or fulfill a desire to understand. It is a search for answers, a reaching for meaning” (Ruggerio)

“What we think, we become.”

~Buddha



INTELLECTUAL TRAITS

- Humility
- Courage
- Empathy
- Autonomy
- Integrity
- Perseverance
- Confidence in Reason
- Fair Mindedness

TOMATO, TAMATO...

- Inquisitiveness
- Open-mindedness
- Systematicity
- Analyticity
- Truth-Seeking
- Self-Confidence
- Maturity



- Intellectual humility
- Intellectual courage
- Intellectual empathy
- Intellectual integrity
- Intellectual perseverance
- Faith in reason
- Fairmindedness

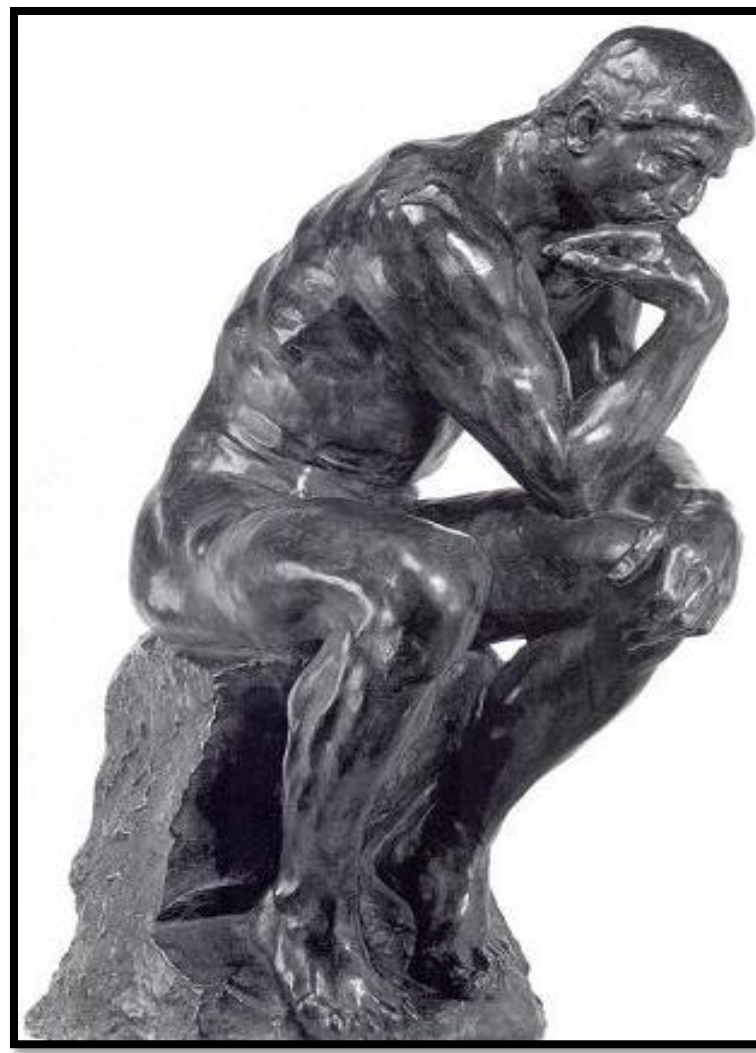
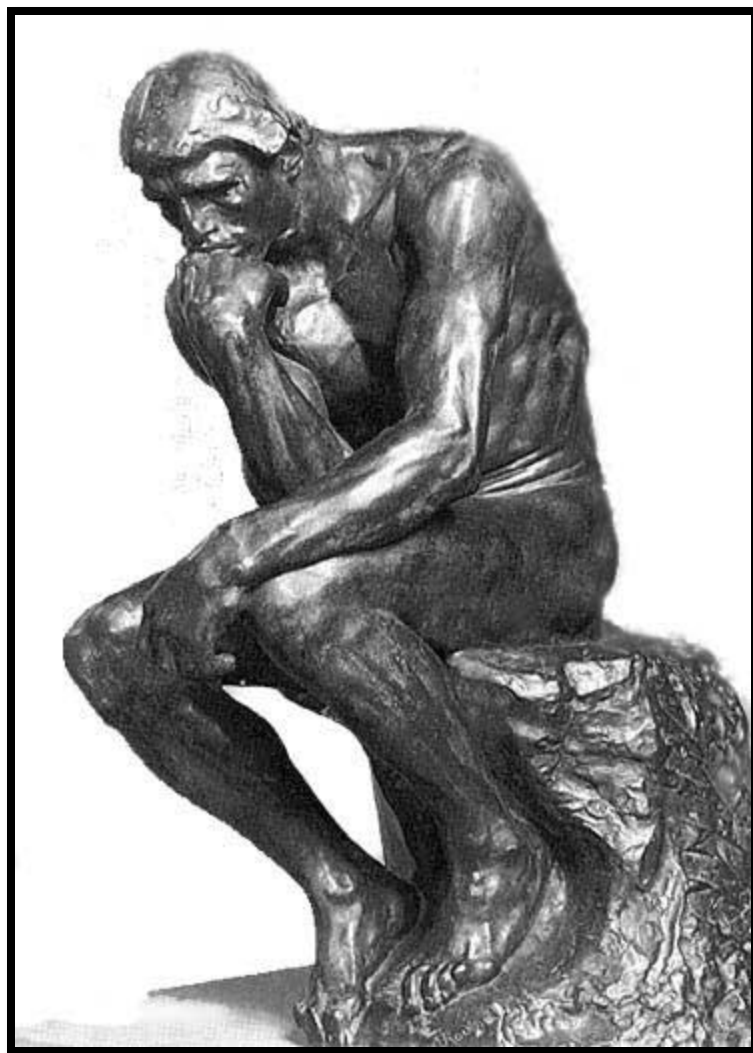
*BECOMING
A CRITIC*

Five FIVE-WORDS

SAY
LESS
AND
MEAN
MORE

The background features several thin, light green lines that intersect to form various geometric shapes, including triangles and polygons, creating a modern, abstract design.

*WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE
A CRITICAL THINKER?*



WHAT IS CRITICAL THINKING?

Reasoned, purposive, and reflective thinking used to make decisions, solve problems, and master concepts

(Rudd, Baker, Hoover, 2000)

CLUE 1 – IT'S ALL ABOUT THE QS



Asking good questions



Answering questions with
good reasoning



Believing the results of your
own good reasoning



Acting on the results of your
reasoning

CRITICAL THINKING

Dispositions

- Engagement
- Cognitive Maturity
- Innovativeness

Styles

- Engagement
- Seeking

Skills

- Interpretation
- Analysis
- Evaluation
- Inference
- Explanation
- Self-Regulation

“How do I know what I think until I see what I say?”

~E. M. Forster

CT Skills

INTERPRETATION

- Categorization
- Clarifying meaning
- Decoding significance

ANALYSIS

- Examining ideas
- Analyzing arguments
- Analyzing assumptions

EVALUATION

- Assessing claims
- Assessing arguments
- Assigning value

CT Skills

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- What is this?
- Where does this information “Fit?”
- How does this relate to what I already know?
- Why is this important?

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- What is the point?
- What is the issue or position?
- What are the assumptions?
- What evidence or information supports the position?
- What is the line of thinking?

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EVALUATION

- Assessing claims
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- Assigning value

- Clear
- Accurate
- Precise
- Relevant
- Depth
- Breadth
- Logic



Before it's too late. wwf.org



CT Skills

EXPLANATION

- Stating results
- Justifying procedures
- Presenting arguments

INFERENCE

- Finding alternatives
- Drawing conclusions
- Making recommendations

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EXPLANATION

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- State your position
- Defend your position
 - Support points with information and evidence
 - Support points with valid assumptions
- Re-state your position

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- Recognizing that problems have a range of solutions and that decisions fall along a range from better to worse.
- Project a range of potential consequences for alternatives.

INFERENCE

- Finding alternatives
- Drawing conclusions
- Making recommendations

You
LOVE THEM.
Goddie THEM. BUT AT SOME POINT
YOU HAVE TO
LET THEM GO BE **JUICE.**



The most nurtured brand
of **juice** on earth.



CT Skills

SELF-REGULATION

- Self examination: Stopping to ask yourself important questions about your beliefs
- Self correction: Changing your beliefs if it is warranted

CT Skills

SELF-REGULATION

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- **What is my belief?**
 - **Why do I believe this to be true?**
 - **What evidence of information do I have?**
- **Can I justify my belief with evidence and information?**
 - **If yes, continue to hold this belief.**
 - **If no, question my belief and search for more information.**
- **I may need to change what I believe...**

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

- Dispositions, Styles, and Skills are are necessarily to build capacity for CT
- There are LOTS of different ways to sort out CT and what is important
- Use tools that you are comfortable using

