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| *\*\*Title\*\** |
| *Chapter 2 Quote Analysis* |
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| ***Brian Petersen*** |
| ***Period 4*** |

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*“There are two ways to slide easily through life: to believe everything, or to doubt everything; both ways save us from thinking.”* Alfred Korzybski 1879-1950

“To be or not to be,” one of Shakespeare’s most famous soliloquy, captures the inherit problem that this quote implies; which is whether to slide through life easily and *not to be*, or to become something more than yourself and *to be.* With these previous ideas, it becomes necessary to define what the term ‘thinking’ means. In the case of this essay, thinking will be interpreted as a usage of thought or rational judgment. I agree in whole with this quote because of my personal observations I have had concerning the attitudes of people towards ‘thinking’.

To begin with, if we slide through life easily, as stated in the quote, we are denying ourselves the opportunity of personal development and growth; and the lack of experience of personal development and growth is what makes life ‘easy’. I say this because in life if we do either of the things mentioned, namely to believe or doubt everything given to us, we are denying ourselves change, progression, development, enlightenment, and refinement. These things listed are often times the things that people say are things that make life ‘hard’, so denying and not experiencing this ‘hard’ things means that we are experiencing the ‘easy’ things in life which are the . In other words, when we ignorantly believe or doubt everything presented to us, we deny ourselves the opportunity to experience the things that people consider as elements of life that give purpose to our lives and make it harder when compared to the people who do not experience ourselves thus giving us the accepted definitions of an easy and a hard life. If we do not believe or doubt everything given to us, how do we know what to believe and what to doubt?

In contrast, if we do not believe or doubt everything as it was given to us, we instead analyze the idea, thought, or knowledge given to us and then make a judgment accordingly; or in other words we use rational judgment, or *thinking*, to determine what to believe and doubt. It is like using a fishing-net to separate and filter all the fish from the water. We use rational thought to separate and filter what we should believe and doubt. This is what I believe that people should do rather than believe or doubt everything. We should use rational thought as a filter to separate the things given to us as believable to doubtable. As well, in concurrence with the previous issue discussed in the second paragraph, when we selectively believe and doubt, we give ourselves opportunity to grow and development and experience those elements that make life ‘hard’ and that give meaning or substance to our lives. In summary, we should speculate and analyze all information given to use than use sensible thought to determine what to believe and doubt.

In conclusion, when we believe or doubt everything given to us, our minds are already set and are now close-minded and we no longer have to think as stated in the quote; but if we use coherent thought to selectively believe and doubt the things given to us, than we have used thought in our lives which has made it comparatively ‘harder’ than the previous life style. But the things that have made it harder are things that development us and cause us to become better. The usage of thinking gives substance to our lives which is why we should filter everything given to us.