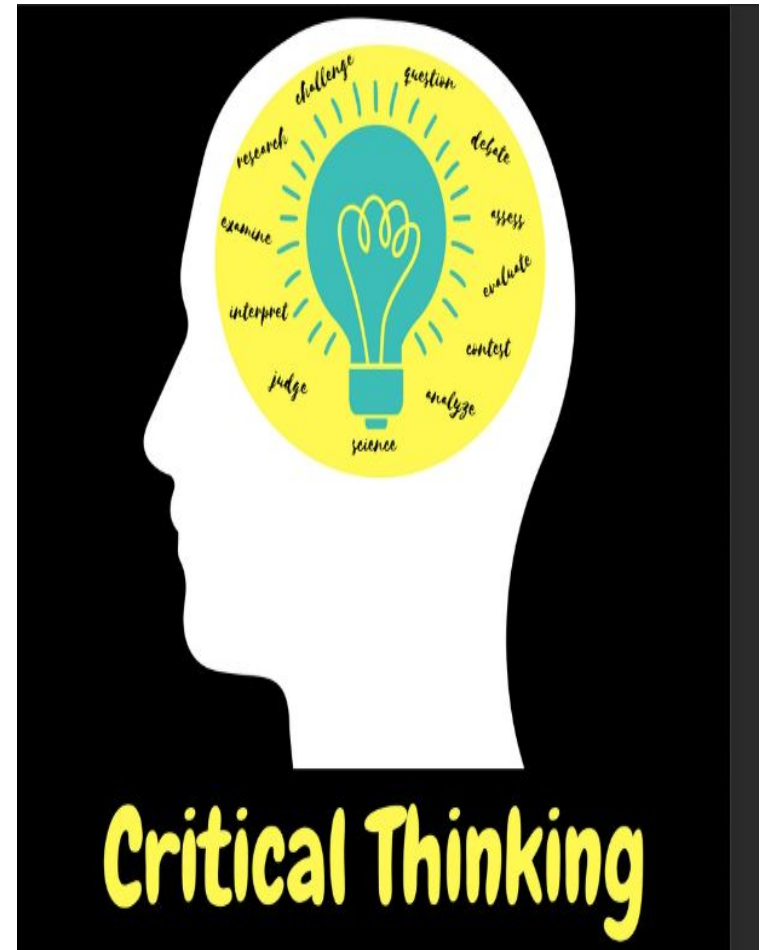


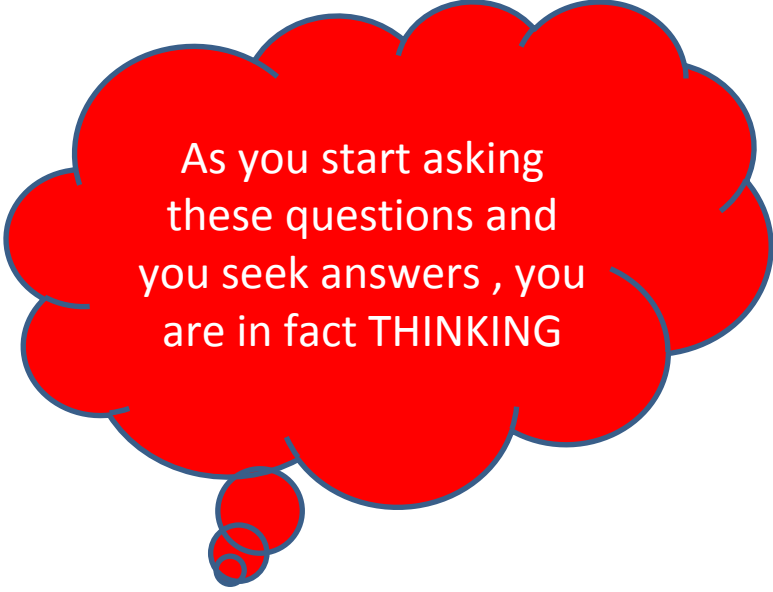
Critical Thinking



- What is thinking?
- Types of thinking
- What is critical thinking
- Critical thinking standards
- Benefits of critical thinking
- Barriers of critical thinking
- Characteristics of a critical Thinker

What is thinking?

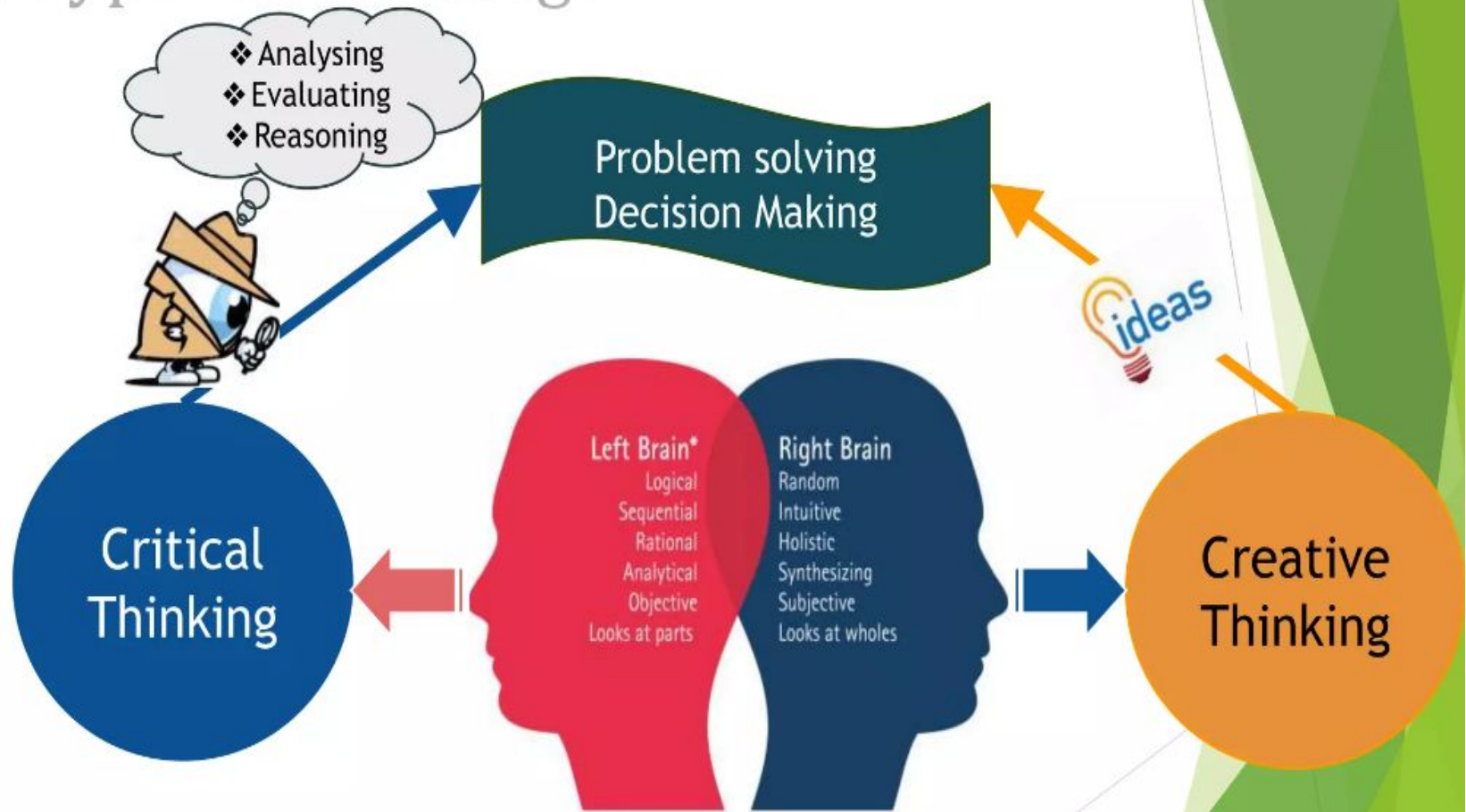
- Why is the **sky** blue?
- Is time **travel** possible?
- Why doesn't **he** like me?
- Why doesn't **she** like me?



As you start asking these questions and you seek answers , you are in fact THINKING

Thinking is purposeful, organized process that we use to make sense of the world

2. Types of thinking?



Critical Thinking

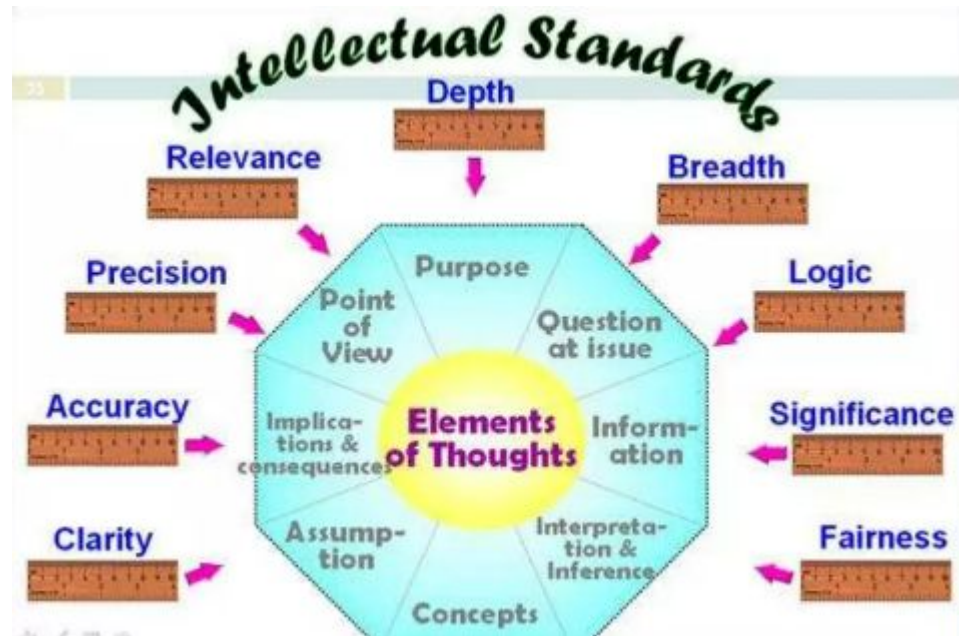
- Critical thinking is the term given to a wide range of cognitive and intellectual skills needed to:
 - **Effectively identify, analyze and evaluate arguments.**
 - **Discover and overcome personal prejudices and biases**
 - **Formulate and present convincing reasons in support of conclusions.**
 - **Make reasonable, intelligent decisions about what to believe and what to do.**

Note: Critical Thinking is a skill so fortunately for us we can enhance it through practice.

Critical Thinking Standards

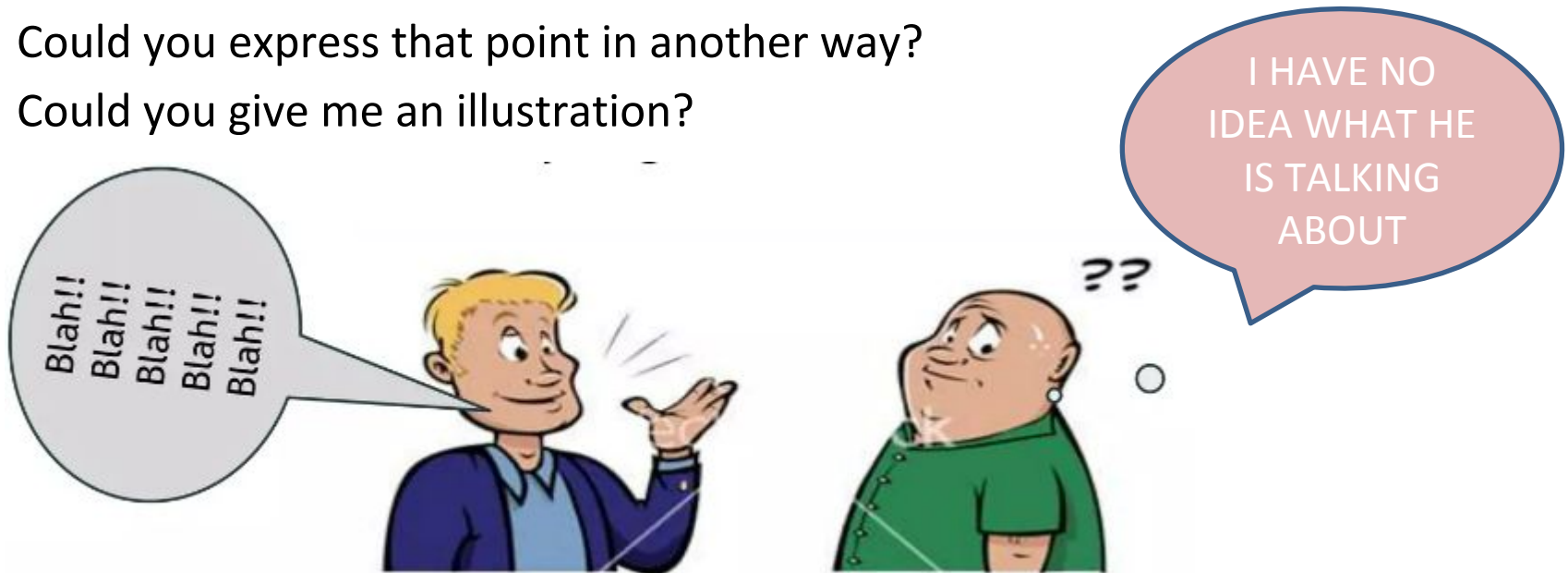
Universal intellectual standards are standards which must be applied to thinking. To think critically requires having command of these standards.

- ◆ Clarity
- ◆ Accuracy
- ◆ Precision
- ◆ Relevance
- ◆ Depth
- ◆ Breadth
- ◆ Logic
- ◆ Fairness



CLARITY

- Could you further elaborate on that point?
- Could you express that point in another way?
- Could you give me an illustration?



Clarity is the gateway standard. If a statement is unclear, we can't determine whether it's accurate or relevant. In fact, we cannot tell anything about it because we don't yet know what it is saying.

Accuracy

- ☐ Is that really true?
- ☐ How could we check that?
- ☐ How could we find out if that is true?

THIS DOG
WEIGHS
MORE THAN
300
POUNDS!!!



A statement can be clear but not accurate

Precision

- ☐ Could you give more details?
- ☐ Could you be more specific?



Let it go
man!

A statement can be clear and accurate but not precise.

Relevance

- ❑ How is that connected to the question?
- ❑ How does that bear on the issue?



A statement can be clear, accurate and precise but not relevant to the question at issue.

Depth

- ☐ How does your answer address the complexities in the question?
- ☐ How are you taking into account the problems in the question?
- ☐ Is that dealing with the most significant factors?



**A statement can be clear, accurate, precise and relevant but
superficial**

- Do we need to consider the other point of view?
- Is there another way to look at this question?
- What would this look like from the point of view of..?



A line of reasoning may be clear, accurate, precise, relevant and deep but still ignore the other side of the argument.

Logic

- ☐ Does this really make sense?
- ☐ How does this follow from what I said before?
- ☐ Does this contradict a previous statement?

Superman can see through anything!!

Superman can see through walls!!

Superman can see through you!!



When the combination of thoughts are mutually supporting and make sense in combination, the thinking is "logical."

Fairness

- ☐ Do I have a vested interest in this issue?
- ☐ Am I sympathetically representing the viewpoints of others?
- ☐ Am I open minded?

"Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid."

-Albert Einstein

We don't naturally consider the rights and needs of others on the same planes with their own rights and needs, but to be a good thinker you should apply "fairness" in your thinking.

Benefits of Critical Thinking

At Work:

As more and more employers are looking for employees not with specialized academic skills but with good thinking and communication skills, who can

- learn quickly and solve problems
- Shows creativity
- Gather and analyze the issue meaningfully.

This has become vital skill for any professional

Contd...

Daily life

- Helps us avoid making foolish decision
- Helps us become a good citizen capable of making good decisions on important social, political and economic issues.
- Helps us in developing good thinking skills capable of examining our own assumptions.

Barriers to Critical Thinking

1. Egocentrism:

- self centered thinking
- Self interest thinking
- Thinking self as the center of attention

2. Sociocentrism:

- Group centered thinking
- To assume one group is more superior or righteous.

Contd...

3. **Unwarranted Assumptions:**

- A belief that something is true without proper evidence or justification.

4. **Wishful Thinking:**

- Believing something is true because one wishes it to be true.

5. **Relativism:**

- Thinking that truth is just a matter of opinion

Characteristics of a Critical Thinker

- Are honest with themselves.
- Regard problems and controversial issues as exciting challenges.
- Strive for understanding, keep curiosity alive, remain patient with complexity.
- Base judgment on evidence rather personal preferences.
- Are interested in other people's ideas and so are willing to read and listen attentively.

Contd...

- Practice fair mindedness and seek a balance view.
- Practice restraint, controlling their feelings rather than being controlled by them.