

of healthy people that support euthanasia so the comparison is not reasonable. (With statistical information the sample size of 200 patients is important.)

2. In a survey of 200 terminally ill patients, 62% supported legalizing euthanasia. It appears from this that terminally ill people are likely to support euthanasia.

This conclusion is logical. The size of the sample (200 patients) is large enough to consider that these patients represent most terminally ill patients. If approximately 60% of this sample supports making euthanasia legal, then it is reasonable to assume that approximately the same percentage of the terminally ill patient population in general will favour legalizing euthanasia.

### Consider Multiple Points Of View

**7** It is also important in critical thinking to seek out, understand, and consider the points of view different groups may have of a particular situation. Points of view are also known as perspectives. Others may see things in the situation that we do not see or they might have access to information that we do not have. Ask, "Who are the people or groups involved or affected by this situation and how might they perceive it?" Of course in order to understand other people's perspectives, we need to listen with empathy. In our immigration example, employers may have a different point of view on the situation than new immigrants, or the government. We have to understand and consider all their points of view. Each group will interpret the situation according to its own beliefs and interests. In other words, each group has biases—particular points of view that support what the group already believes to be true or wants others to believe is true. Employers are likely to view the situation in ways that reflect their interests, while immigrants are likely to view the situation in a way that reflects theirs. This is not necessarily done with bad intentions. It is often unconscious.

### Identify Biases And Assumptions And Challenge Them

**8** Because different groups will have different perspectives, we must ask whether the information we have been given promotes a particular point of view. Does the person or the group who is giving the information want to influence our judgment in any particular way? Who benefits from our believing the information? Furthermore, many times people simply assume that information is true. This happens especially when intuition tells them

that something must be true. For example, people may assume that not speaking English fluently is the main barrier to finding employment for immigrants. That seems intuitively true, but we should not assume that this is true without some evidence. It is important to identify biases and assumptions in arguments and challenge them. Critical thinkers are not afraid to disagree, but they think clearly and logically about their reasons for disagreeing.

### Consider Causes And Consequences Of Problems

**9** Another way to make good decisions in complex situations is to consider the causes and consequences of problems. Problems often have several causes that together result in the problem rather than one single cause. Nevertheless, identifying causes is not enough. We also need to understand the effects a problem has on the world, especially on the different groups of people involved.

### Apply Your Knowledge to New Situations To Generate Creative Ideas

**10** Finally, we must be able to transfer our knowledge and understanding of particular situations and problems to new situations. For example, perhaps we can apply our knowledge and understanding of the complexities of new immigrants finding jobs to the situation of international students succeeding in higher education. We can explore the similarities and differences between these two situations and apply what we know about the one to the other. Transferring knowledge from one context to another and combining the knowledge we have about one situation with the knowledge we have about another allows us to think creatively to generate new ideas.

(88) *rationaly*: in a logical way

(112) *seek out*: look for, invite to participate

(119) *perceive*: see

(121) *empathy*: understanding the feelings of others

(125) *interpret*: understand the meaning

(130) *reflect*: show (like a mirror image)

(147) *assumptions*: things we believe are true, but do not really know for certain to be true

(147) *challenge*: disagree, demand a discussion about the truth of something

(162) *apply*: transfer and use

(168) *context*: a particular situation

(171) *generate*: create