

Critical Thinking

An Introduction

CRITICAL THINKING

Through this presentation you will learn:

- What is thinking?
- Types of thinking?
- What is Critical Thinking?
- Critical Thinking Standards?
- Benefits of Critical Thinking
- Barriers to Critical Thinking
- Characteristic of Critical Thinker

Do You Agree?

“GIVE place here to some further consideration of thought. You will never become great until your own thoughts make you great, and therefore it is of the first importance that you should THINK.”



What is thinking?

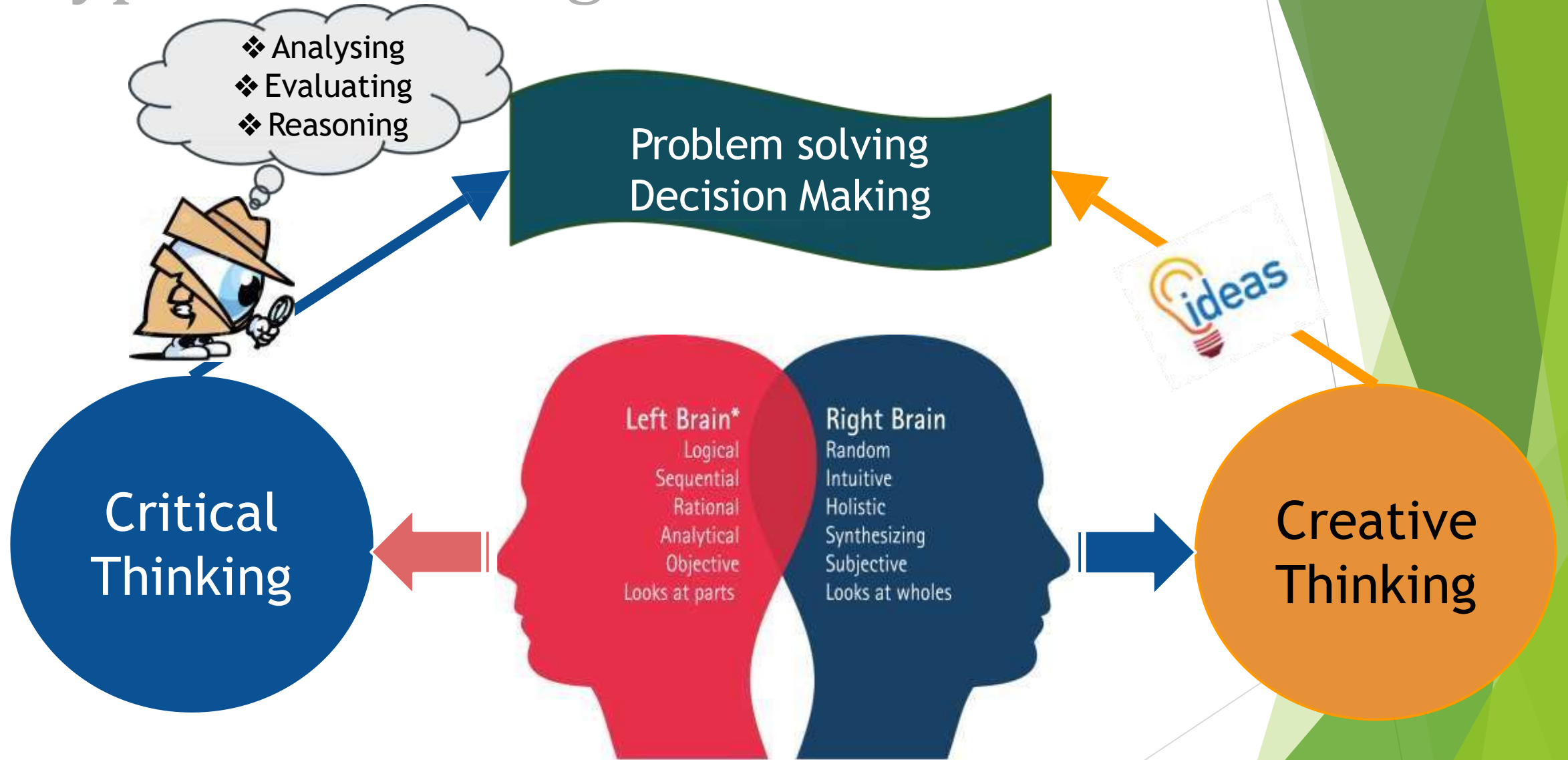
Why is the **sky** blue?
Is time travel **possible**?
Why doesn't **she** like me?
Why doesn't **he** like me?

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



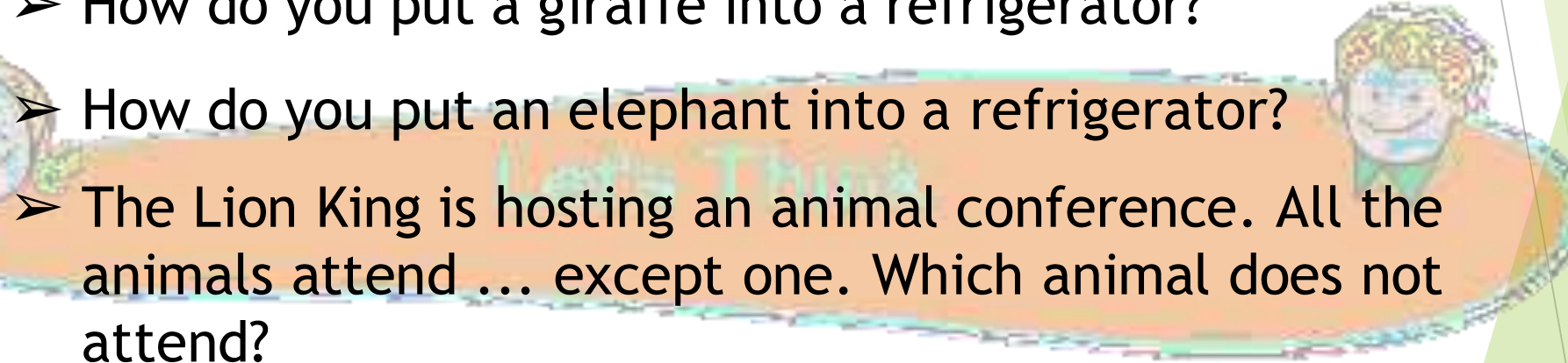
In other words:- Thinking is purposeful, organised process that we use to make sense of the world.

2. Types of thinking?



2.1 Lets think!!!

This is an old quiz (hope you remember the ans) developed by Anderson Consulting Worldwide. Answer each question in order.

- 
- How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator?
 - How do you put an elephant into a refrigerator?
 - The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend ... except one. Which animal does not attend?
 - There is a river you must cross but it is used by crocodiles, and you do not have a boat. How do you manage it?

The correct answers are given in the last slide

3. What is Critical Thinking?

Example of not thinking critically



3.1 What is Critical Thinking?

Gather and
assess

Information

in a **logical**

balanced
and

reflective

way to
reach

conclusions



justified by reasoned **argument** based on available **evidence**

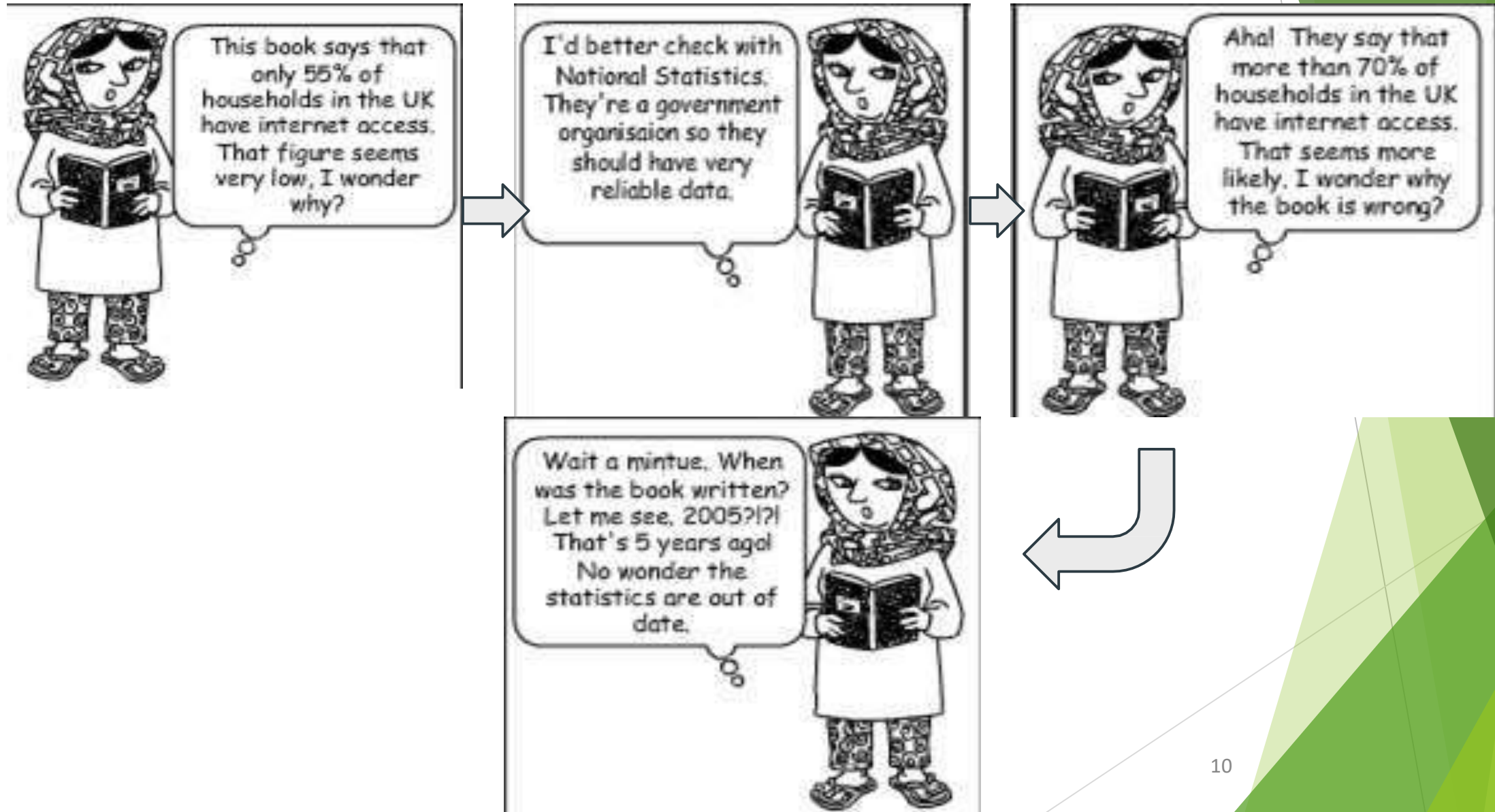
3.2 What is Critical Thinking?

Critical thinking is general 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.

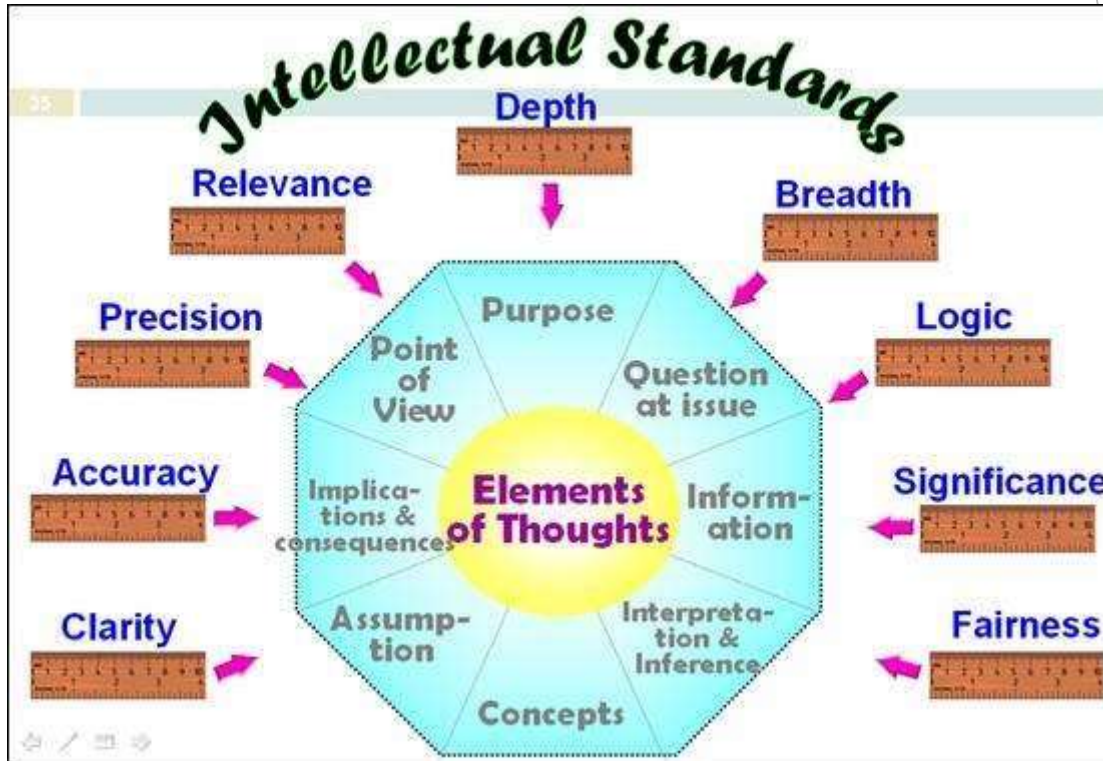
3.3 What is Critical Thinking?



4. 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



4.1 Clarity

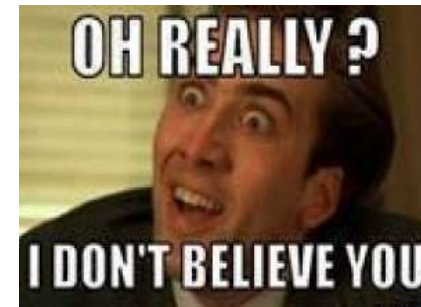
- ❑ Could you elaborate further on that point?
- ❑ Could you express that point in another way?
- ❑ Could you give me an illustration?



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

4.2 Accuracy

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



A statement can be clear but not accurate

4.3 Precision

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



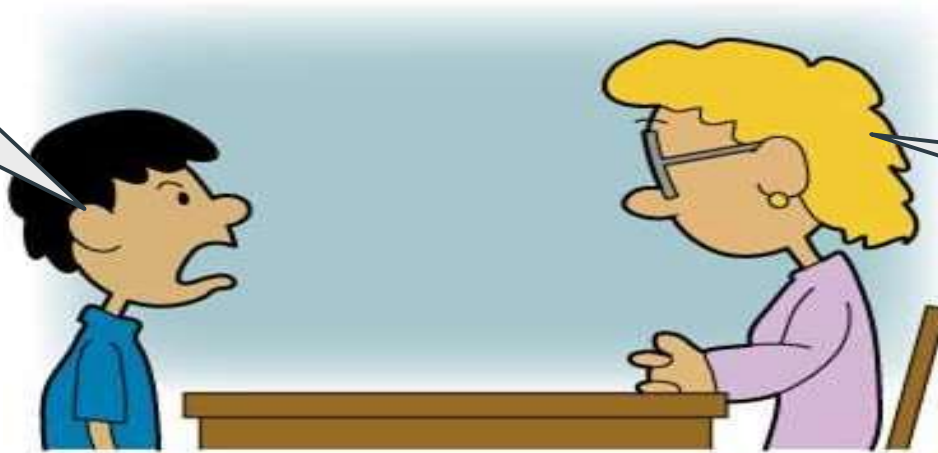
Let it go
man!!

A statement can be both clear and accurate, but not precise.

4.4 Relevance

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

I have given good effort in studies all semester so I should get A+

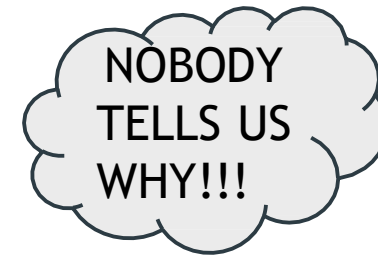


The "effort" does not measure the quality of your learning dear!

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

4.5 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.

4.6 Breadth

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

Was studying all night!!



You got zero marks for "participation", coz you didn't participate in the class discussion at all.

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

4.7 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."

4.8 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 do not naturally consider the rights and needs of others on the same plane with their own rights and needs, but to be a good thinker you should apply "Fairness" in your thinking.

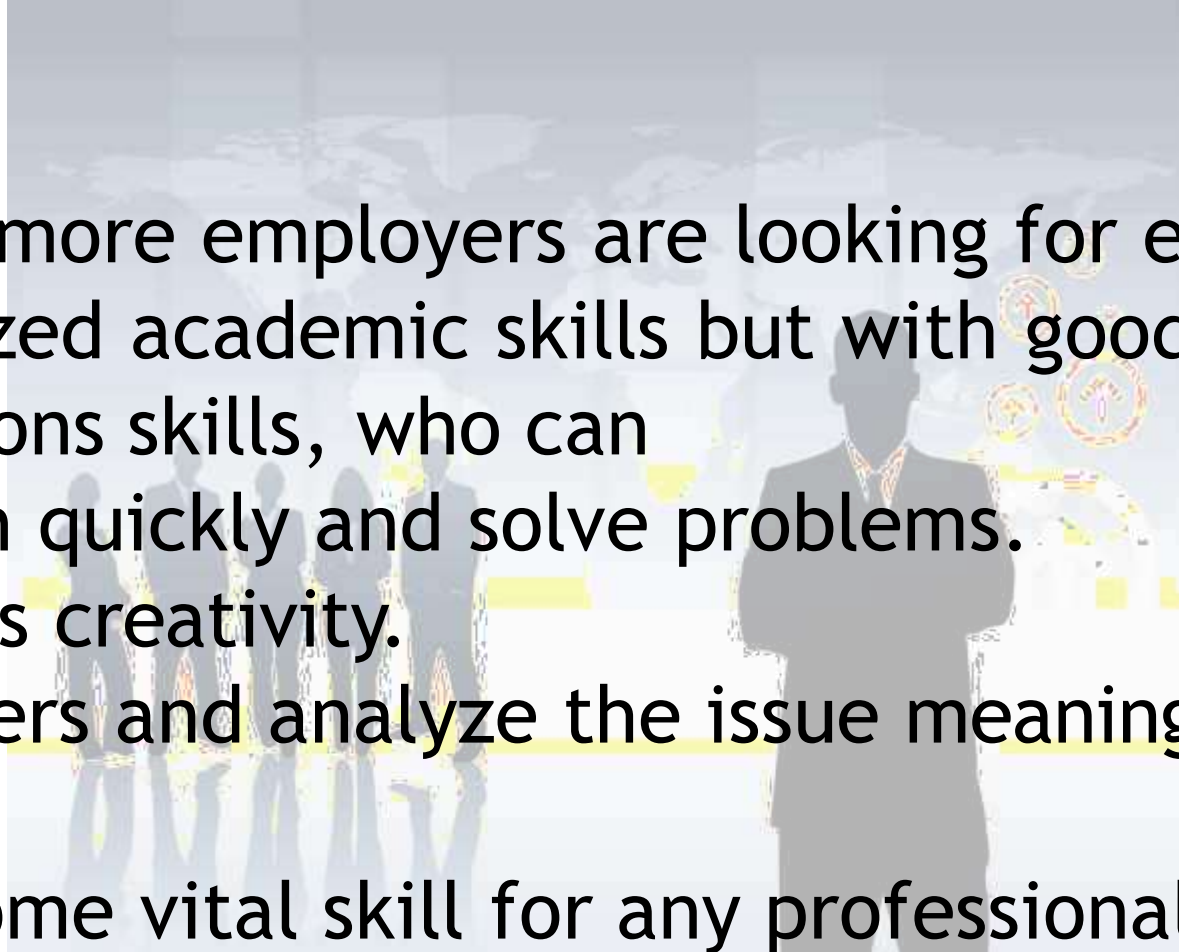
5. Benefits of Critical Thinking

At Work

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

- ☐ Learn quickly and solve problems.
- ☐ Shows creativity.
- ☐ Gathers and analyze the issue meaningfully.

This has become vital skill for any professional



5.1 Benefits of Critical Thinking

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 skill capable of examining our own assumptions and dogmas.



6. Barriers to Critical Thinking

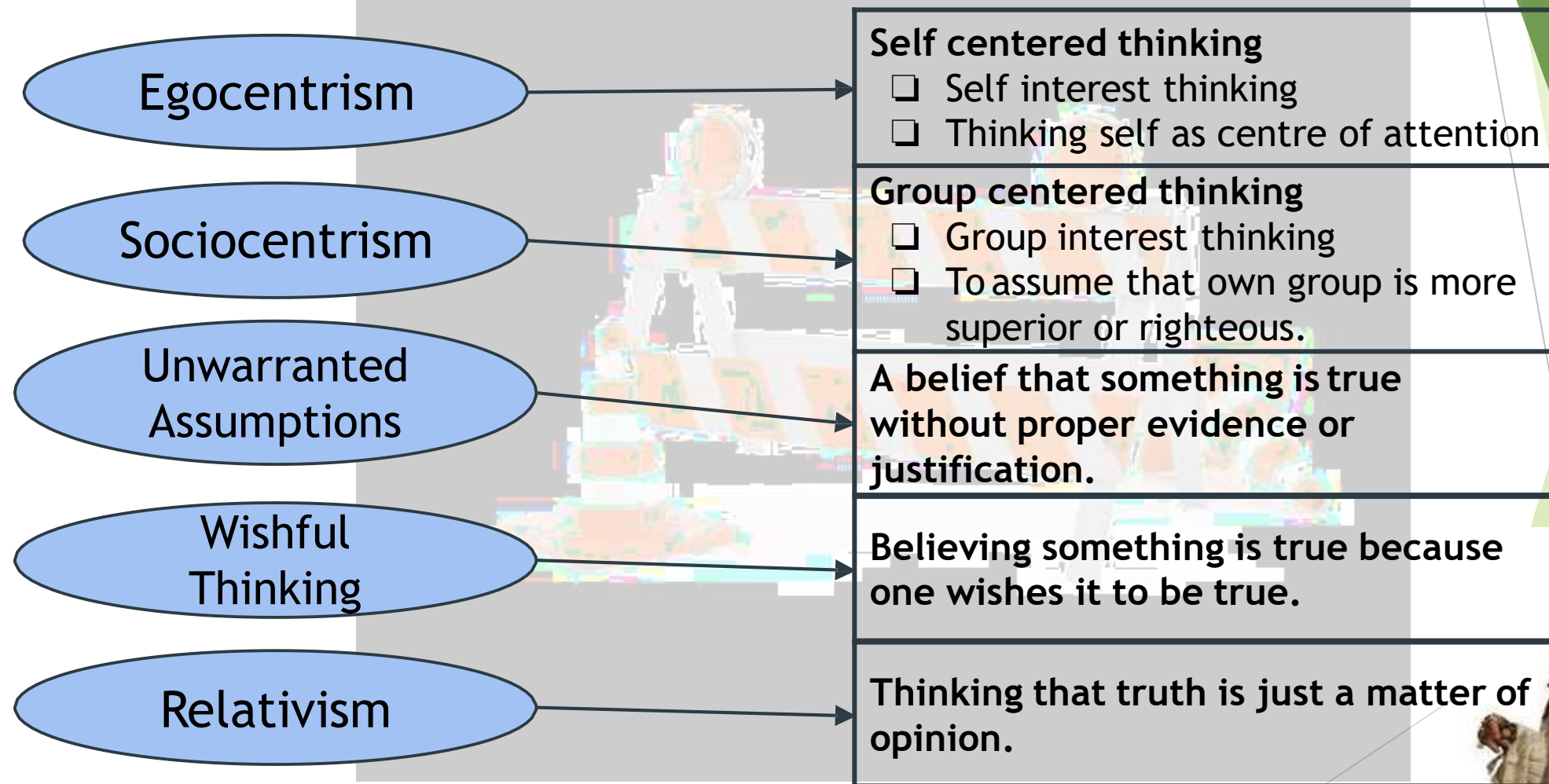
You might ask,

- If the critical thinking is so important, then why is uncritical thinking so common?
- Why is that so many people including the highly educated and intellectual people find it difficult to think critically?

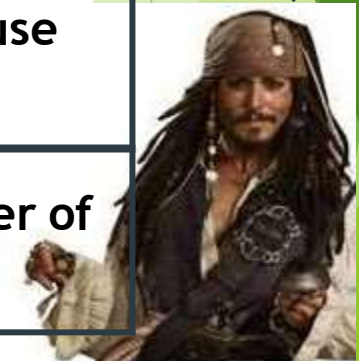


6.1 Barriers to Critical Thinking

5 most powerful **barriers** to critical thinking.



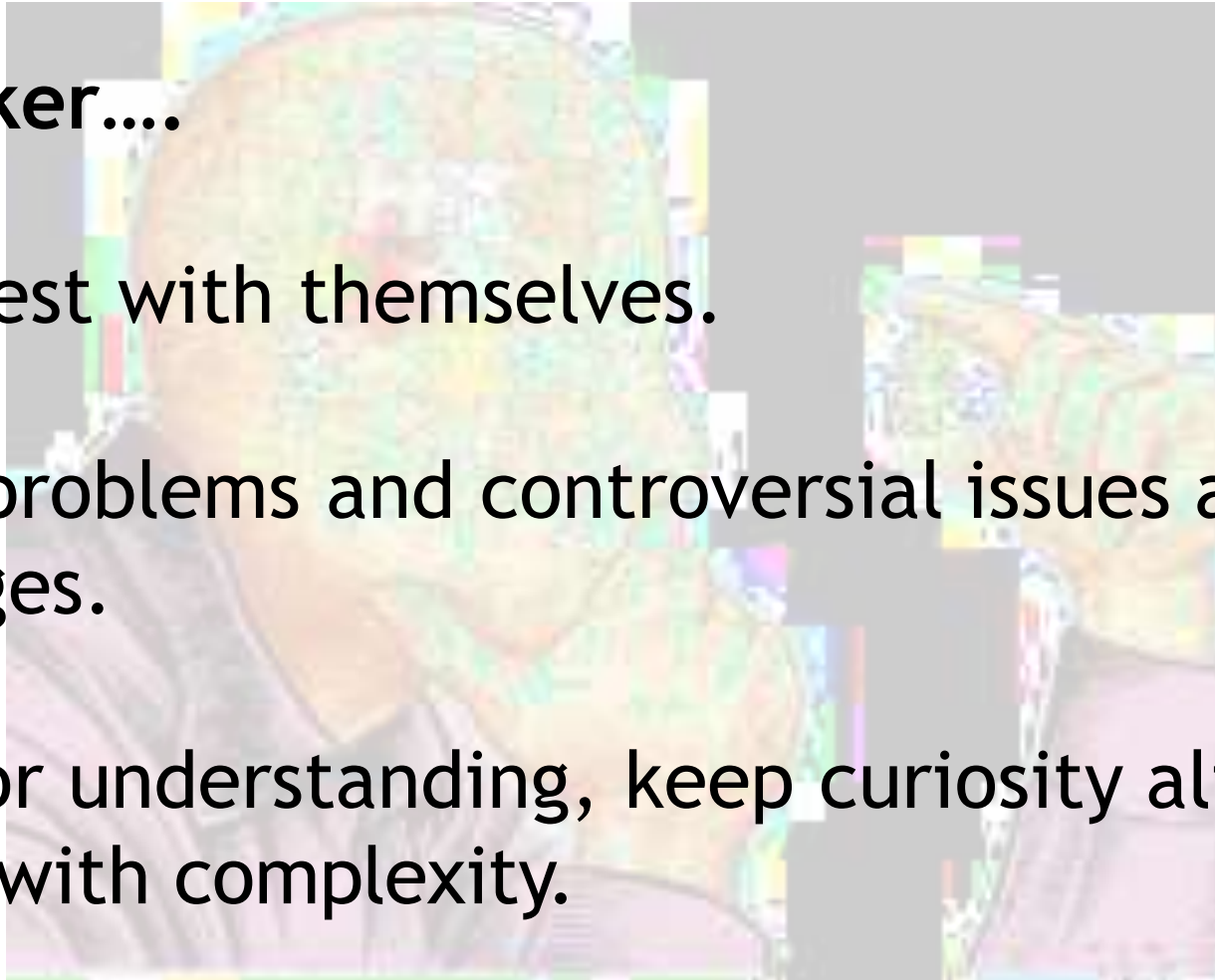
The problem is not the problem. The problem is your attitude towards the problem.



7. Characteristic of Critical Thinker

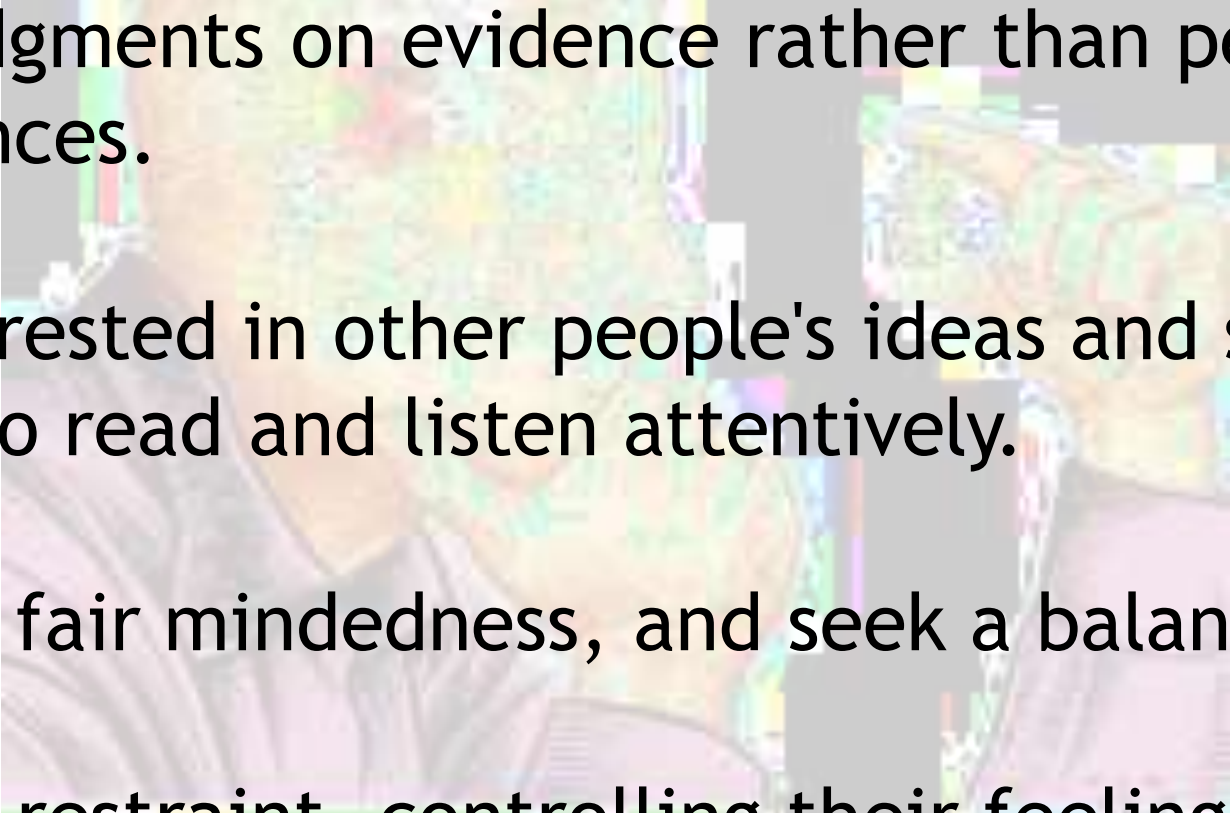
Critical Thinker....

- Are honest with themselves.
- Regard problems and controversial issues as exciting challenges.
- Strive for understanding, keep curiosity alive remain patient with complexity.



7. Characteristic of Critical Thinker

Critical Thinker....

- 
- Base judgments on evidence rather than personal preferences.
 - Are interested in other people's ideas and so are willing to read and listen attentively.
 - Practice fair mindedness, and seek a balance view.
 - Practice restraint, controlling their feelings rather than being controlled by them.

Answers for quiz in slide 6

☐ How do you put a giraffe into your refrigerator?

Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and close the door.

This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

☐ How do you put an elephant into your refrigerator?

Did you say, Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant, and close the refrigerator?
Wrong answer.

Correct answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door.

This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.

Answers for quiz in slide 6

- ☐ The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend-except one. Which animal does not attend?

Correct Answer: The elephant. The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him in there. This tests your memory. Okay, even if you did not answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your true abilities.

- ☐ There is a river you must cross but it is used by crocodiles, and you do not have a boat. How do you manage it?

Correct Answer: You jump into the river and swim across. Have you not been listening? All the crocodiles are attending the animal conference.

This tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

THANKS