When looking at the characteristics of a critical thinker, I believe that my strongest trait would have to be clarity. As a Computer Science major, there is a lot of critical thinking involved when it comes to solving a problem. For school assignments, clarity is important because you need to make sure the program you build does what is assigned. If I’m unsure about something, I make sure to ask other students and the professor so that I can gain more insight on what’s being asked. This also applies to a career. When you’re working, you have real paying customers that are giving you specifications for what they want. Your team needs to make sure that they understand all the requirements, so that they can deliver the product on time, within specifications, and make the customer happy. Even though I feel that clarity is my strongest trait, there is another I can improve on.

One trait that I feel is my weakest when it comes to critical thinking is accuracy. Accuracy involved checking for facts, and trying to verify if a statement is true, or accurate. Sometimes I may not double check the facts to a statement, especially when it comes to something I don’t know. For example, if I’m coding in an unfamiliar language, I may consult a peer for advice on how to implement something. Being that I don’t know that language, I’ll assume that they know what they’re doing and that their statement is true. When you have a time constraint on a project, you may feel like you don’t have time to fact check and just accept the answer. Therefore, I believe accuracy to be my weakest trait.

In order to improve my accuracy trait, I can do a few things. Relating back to my previous example, I should not just assume that even though a person may know more than me, I shouldn’t just accept that answer. I should go back and check the accuracy of their statement with my own research before assuming that it’s true. I should also not assume that the answers given to me have been fully assessed. In all, I believe that clarity is my strongest trait, and accuracy to be my weakest, but I now have a way in which to improve my weakness.