**2.What is critical evaluation?**

One of the key competencies you can develop to support your decision-making is **critical evaluation**.

This is your ability to:

* Identify useful information or resources related to a question, problem, or decision that you need to make.
* Evaluate how significant that information is and what it means in the context of your situation.
* Make decisions that are supported by your evaluation — and understand why you are doing so.

## 3.What variables are involved in complex decisions?

Variables that are strongly fact-influenced include:

* **Non-negotiable project requirements:** If you’re working on a professional project, there may be set requirements that are out of your control. For example, a fixed deadline may mean that your only choice is to cut a non-critical feature that is not performing correctly close to the launch of your application.
* **Resources available:** If you only have particular resources available to you, this may restrict your options. For example, if you only have 3D artists in your game jam group then making a 2D game may be very difficult.
* **Dependencies:** If one system is dependent on another, then your choices may be influenced or dictated entirely by that dependency. For example, the particular render pipeline you select will make different features and possibilities available to you, as you discovered in [**What are render pipelines?**.](https://learn.unity.com/tutorial/get-started-on-your-guided-project#619fbf21edbc2a39aabd80eb)

Variables that are strongly influenced by thoughts and feelings include:

* **Creative vision:** Intuition and aesthetic taste can influence your creative vision as much as the understanding you have developed of your craft. This could mean that you start a project with a very clear idea about the outcome that you want to achieve, which would impact many if not all decisions.
* **Risk and expediency:** Approaches to risk and balancing pragmatic and rigorous approaches are often strongly influenced by personal preferences as well as awareness of key facts that relate to the decision. For example, imagine that you are close to completing a project. You love a particular feature, but there are a number of user experience issues you are struggling to address. What you choose to do in that situation will be strongly influenced by your personal approach to risk and expediency.

**5.Find a framework for asking questions**

There are lots of different frameworks that you can research, and it can take time to find or adapt the right one for you. Let’s keep it simple here with four key questions:

* **Why is this decision important?** This question can be used to clarify your objective in making the decision.
* **What do you need to know to properly understand the situation?** This question helps you dig down to identify the questions that you need to answer before you can decide.
* **Who is or will be impacted by this decision?** This question reminds you to consider others — even if you’re making the decision alone and you will bear the impact, it’s an important point to consider.
* **What are the risks and how can you mitigate them?** This question encourages you to think proactively about addressing risks, either before or after making the decision.

## 7.How do I evaluate information to make a decision?

Check in with yourself.

Before you begin analysing the information that you’ve gathered, it’s often worthwhile checking in with yourself about the decision you need to make or the problem you need to solve.

The following questions can be a helpful place to start:

* Are there any questions related to the decision where you’re working from assumptions? If so — are there more questions you need to find answers to so that you can break through those assumptions?
* Are there any strong thoughts or feelings that are impacting your perspective on the decision? If so — can you identify why you think or feel that particular way?

By being aware of these things, you can engage with them consciously in the decision-making process.

Evaluate your information

It can be helpful to work through a series of questions to help you analyse the information that you’ve gathered and determine how significant it is.

As you develop your skills in evaluation this process can become much quicker, but it can be helpful even for very experienced creators to step back and consciously work through the following questions:

* Who or what is the source of this information?
* How relevant is the information to the decision you’re trying to make?
* How reliable is the information?
* What is the wider context of the information?
* Can you identify any limitations or shortfalls to the information?

## 9.What happens after I’ve made a decision?

Sharing your decision with others

Reflecting on your decision