CRITICAL THINKING
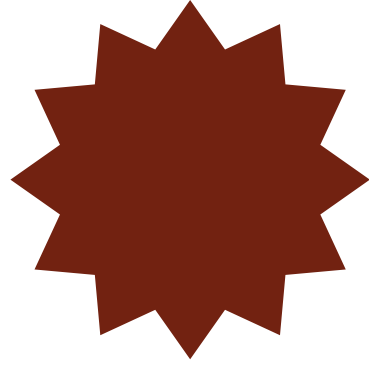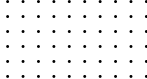

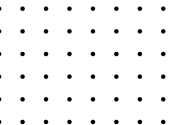# By: Ahmed Thaufeeq

WHAT IS CRITICAL THINKING?

**Critical thinking can be described as the ability to engage in reflective and independent thinking.**

In this booklet i'm going to refer some very important skills in order to make serious decisions at workplace problems.

Critical thinking doesn't involve only in interpreting and processing information, but also the ability to conclude with the information obtained and make logically appropriate judgments.

The global economy is driven by information and technology. One must be able to deal with changes quickly and effectively. The new economy places increasing demands on flexible complicated skills, and the ability to analyze information and integrate different sources of knowledge in solving problems. Good critical thinking promotes such skills and is very important in the fast-changing workplace. To keep up with the rapid advancements in technology and rapidly changing business environments, businesses need critical thinkers to make reliable decisions and ensure the company moves forward.
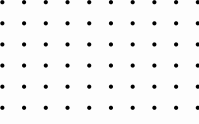
Critical thinking doesn't only involve processing and interpreting information well, but also the skill to use the information at hand to make informed conclusions and come up with appropriate outcomes. This is what separates strong critical thinkers from people who are simply able to memorize important information, as they're also able to use this information to brainstorm effective solutions.

The cultivation of growing critical thinking skills in the workplace requires effort in training and development programs that equip employees with the useful tools and techniques to analyze and evaluate information effectively, so that the result will be more efficient, innovative and productive workforce that can navigate complex challenges and drive success for the organization.
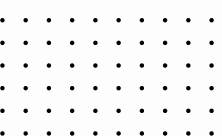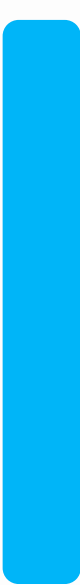
IMPORTANT AREAS IN CRITICAL THINKING

- **Leadership**
- **Problem-solving**
- **Communication**
- **Self-Awareness**

Leadership

Leaders often need to think critically when making decisions that impact the business. They need to employ critical thinking skills when considering situations and weigh up the advantages and disadvantages of possible solutions. Critical thinking is an essential skill for successful leadership.
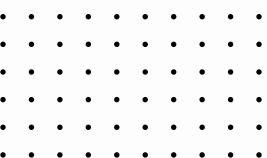
Problem-Solving

Problems arise within all workplace daily. Some have a straight-forward solution, whereas others require a more complex approach. As a business leader or employee, it's essential to think critically when facing more significant issues. Thinking critically will enable you to produce several alternative solutions to a problem, ensuring that the decision made is best for the company overall.

Communication

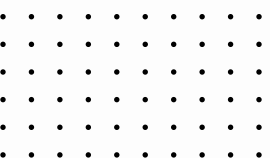There is a strong link between critical thinking and communication. Applying critical thinking skills to communication allows you to consider the perspectives of others, anticipate how they might respond and formulate the most appropriate response. This leads to effective communication and improves productivity.
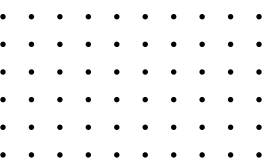
Self-Awareness

Many of the decisions we make in life are subtly informed by our values and beliefs. These influences are called cognitive biases and it can be difficult to identify because they are often not realized. Practicing self-awareness will allow you to make right-ful beliefs you have and the choices you make. You'll then be better equipped to challenge your own thinking and make improved, unbiased decision

# STEPS BEFORE IMPLEMENTING

- Identify The Problems
- Start small
- Act Pre-emtively
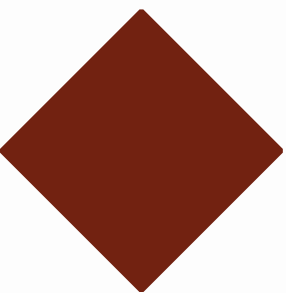- Allow Sufficient Time

Identify The Problems

If mistakes are consistently made, determine whether the issue is a lack of critical thinking or an inherent issue with a team or process. After identifying areas that lack critical thinking, research the type of training best suited to your organization.
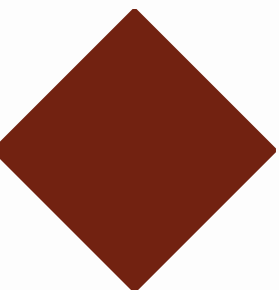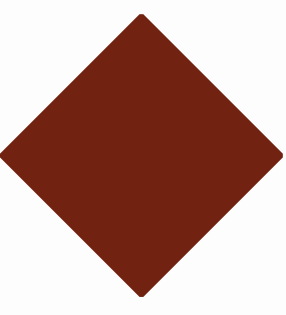
Start small

Employees newly embracing critical thinking might have trouble tackling large issues immediately. Instead, present them with smaller challenges. Start practicing critical thinking as a skill with smaller problems as examples, and then work your way up to larger problems.

Act Pre-emtively

Teaching and implementing critical thinking training and methodology takes time and patience. It might feel urgent to seek critical thinking during a crisis, but critical thinking is a challenging skill to learn amid panic and stress. Critical thinking training is best done preemptively so that when a crisis hits, employees will be well prepared and critical thinking will come naturally.

Allow Sufficient Time

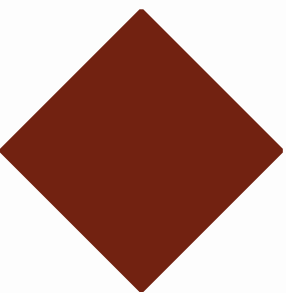From a managerial perspective, giving employees extra time on projects or problems might feel stressful in the middle of deadlines and executive pressures.

But if you want those working for you to engage in critical thinking processes, it's urgent to give them enough time.

Allowing employees sufficient time to work through their critical thinking process can save the company time and money in the long run.

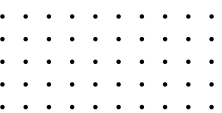# BENEFITS OF CRITICAL THINKING

- Career Success
- Better Decision Making
- Well-Informed Opinions
- Improves Relationships
- Allows For Creativity

Career Success
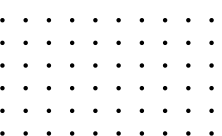
Critical thinking is one of the most desirable skills to have in the workforce, as it helps analyze information, think outside the box, solve problems with innovative solutions, and plan systematically.

Better Decision Making

There's no doubt critical thinkers make the best choices. Critical thinking helps us deal with everyday problems as they come our way and very often this thought process is even done subconsciously. It helps us think independently and trust our gut feeling.

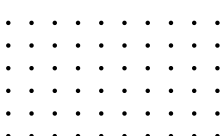# Well-Informed Opinions

There is no shortage of information coming at us from all angles. And that's exactly why we need to use our critical thinking skills and decide for ourselves what to believe. Critical thinking allows us to ensure that our opinions are based on the facts and help us sort through all that extra noise.

Improves Relationships
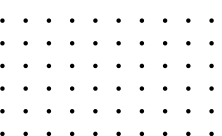
While you may be convinced that being a critical thinker is bound to cause you problems in relationships, this really couldn't be less true! Being a critical thinker will allow you to better understand the perspective of others.
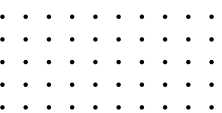
Allows For Creativity

Critical thinkers are also highly creative thinkers and see themselves as limitless when it comes to possibilities. They are constantly looking to take things further, which is crucial in the workforce.

EFFECTIVE SKILLS TO THINK CRITICALLY

VERIFICATION

ANALYSIS

INTERPRET

EVALUATE

JUDGMENT

VERIFICATION
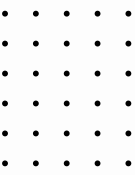
Be sure to verify the information you have receieved is correct, everything you hear or read isn't truth. If the infromation you obtained have criticism, errors or any inaccuracies up to date the evidence should be considerd false. Once the information have been verified you also need to share it with other stakeholders or your colleagues. Having knowledge to understand logical connection between two or more ideas or concepts, Good critical thinkers tend to draw reasonable conclusions from a set of useful information to solve problems and make quality decisions.
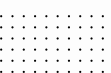
ANALYSE

The ability to analyse a situation involves knowing deeply facts, data or information about the problem. This also includes unbiased research, asking relevant questions regarding the data to ensure it's accuracy. You'll need carefully to look in the mass information, so observe to identify any patterns or similarities so you can make important decision's and sensible predictions in the future.

INTERPRET

The best critical thinkers should have the ability at using the findings of their analysis to inform their view on the topic or problem faced. Key to your ability to infer and draw conclusions is your problem-solving skills. After all, your analysis may point to several possible solutions or ways to improve a situation, so narrow down your options. The best way to do this is by thinking through each potential solution in the context of your company's timeframe, objectives and budget. As part of your decision-making process, also think critically to consider the likely effects of each solution.

EVALUATE

Whether it's something read or heard, you must strive to find the objective truth. In doing this, employees evaluate by considering possible challenges and solutions. This process of vetting new information and considering outcomes is called evaluation.

When you attempt to answer a hard question, there is rarely an obvious answer. Even though critical thinking emphasizes putting your biases aside, you need to be able to confidently make a decision based on the data you have available
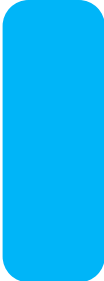
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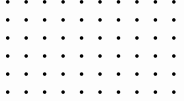
To make a critical judgment, it's important to be able to judge the related information you have. Take, for instance, basic online researching skills. You have access to a large amount of information on virtually every topic imaginable. But performing online research requires you to constantly judge the relevance of what you see. Without judging relevance, you'd spend too much time on details that don't matter as much for the final desired outcome. But when you're able to recognize what's most considered, you can give that information more weight as you're thinking critically.

CONCLUSION

With so many changes in the workplace, almost everyone needs to be a critical thinker. Possessing critical thinking skills will help the way to retention and upward freely for your workforce, it is able to exist "out-of-the-box", challenging consensus and pursuing less popular approaches. If anything, critical thinking is an essential part of creativity because we need critical thinking to evaluate and improve our creative ideas. We can use critical thinking to enhance work processes and improve social institutions.