

2 – DAY CRITICAL THINKING FOR PROBLEM SOLVING



Introduction

In today's society, many people experience information overload. We are bombarded with messages to believe various ideas, purchase things, support causes, and lead our lifestyle in a particular way. How do you know what to believe? How do you separate the truth from the myths?

The answer lies in critical thinking skills. The ability to clearly reason through problems and to present arguments in a logical, compelling way has become a key skill for survival in today's world. This two-day workshop will give you some practical tools and hands-on experience with critical thinking and problem solving.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to:

- Define critical and non-critical thinking
- Identify your critical thinking style(s), including areas of strength and improvement
- Describe other thinking styles, including left/right brain thinking and whole-brain thinking
- Work through the critical thinking process to build or analyze arguments
- Develop and evaluate explanations
- Improve key critical thinking skills
- Use analytical thought systems and creative thinking techniques
- Prepare and present powerful arguments

Methodology

- Individual exercises, group exercises / discussions
- peer-teaching activities
- Case studies
- Role Play
- Kinesthetic exercises
- Video clips

Who Should Attend?

Anyone who is new to decision-making at the corporate level/position of responsibility or faced with information overload in their day-to-day activities.

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Course Outline

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION & COURSE OVERVIEW

- Ice Breaker & Introductions
- Identifying personal learning objectives.
- Problems and challenges I face

MODULE 2: UNDERSTANDING CRITICAL THINKING

- What is Critical Thinking?
- Characteristics of a Critical Thinker
- Common Critical Thinking Styles
- Making Connections

MODULE 3: WHERE DO OTHER TYPES OF THINKING FIT IN?

- Left- and Right-Brain Thinking
- Whole-Brain Thinking
- Pitfalls to Reasoned Decision Making

MODULE 4: THE CRITICAL THINKING PROCESS

- The Critical Thinking Model
- The Standards of Critical Thinking
- Identifying the Issues
- Identifying the Arguments
- Clarifying the Issues and Arguments
- Establishing Context
- Checking Credibility and Consistency
- Evaluating Arguments

MODULE 5: A CRITICAL THINKER'S SKILL SET

- Asking Questions
- Probing Techniques
- Pushing My Buttons
- Critical Thinking Questions
- Active Listening Skills

MODULE 6: CREATING EXPLANATIONS

- Defining Explanations
- Steps to Building an Explanation
- Making Connections

MODULE 7: DEALING WITH ASSUMPTIONS

- Stories that Sound True
- Common Sense

MODULE 8: CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THOUGHT SYSTEMS

- Techniques for Thinking Creatively
- Creative Thinking Exercise
- DeBono's Thinking Hats

MODULE 9: PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

- Presenting and Communicating Your Ideas to Others
- Pre-Assignment Preparation
- Presentations

MODULE 10: WRAPPING UP

- Words from the Wise
- Personal Action Plan

