

THINKING – LEARNING – EARNING

September 7 and 14 – 8am to Noon
Holiday Inn, Alexandria, MN

About the Workshop

To think critically is to know how to frame vital questions clearly, evaluate relevant information and its sources, and demonstrate respectful engagement with others' ideas, behaviors, and beliefs.

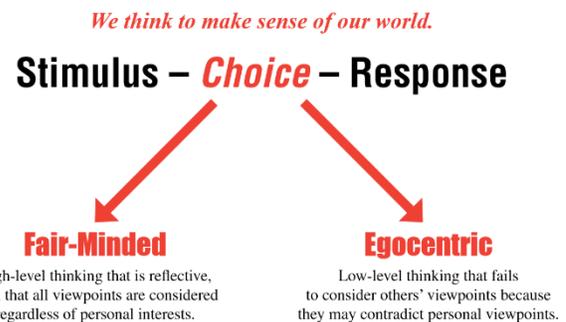
Critical thinking is akin to the baseball player asking *Why do I have to keep my eye on the ball? I have already done that once.* If we are not aware of our thinking, we have no chance of improving it.

Schedule

The workshop consists of two four-hour sessions. The first session will be held on the 7th followed by a six day *Practice Break* and resuming with a final four-hour session on September 14th. The course is divided into three sections.

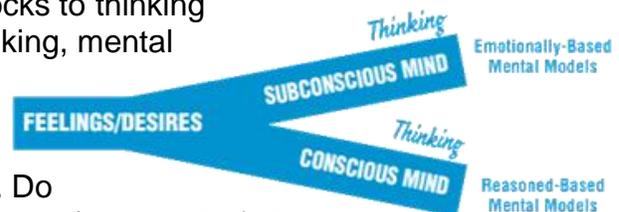
Section 1 - What is Critical Thinking? In this section we answer what critical thinking is by: reviewing what learning is, the fast and slow minds, the process of critical thinking, and how to develop intellectual traits such as courage, humility, and confidence in reason.

Application - External Customer Interactions. Effective customer relations starts with higher-level thinking skills, for example, are employees adept at placing customer needs first? (Ego, bias...).



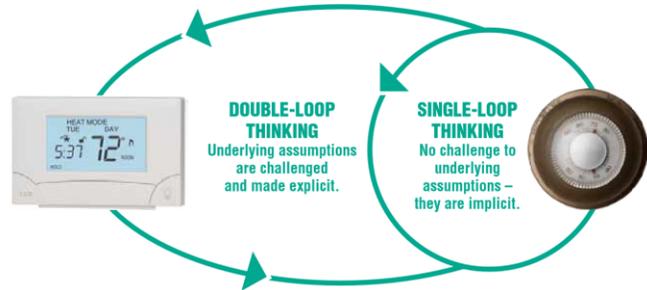
Section 2 - Blocks to Critical Thinking. Thinking is often hijacked by a primal part of the mind; therefore, this section examines blocks to thinking critically such as: the link between critical thinking, mental models, bias, and fallacy.

Application – Effective Coworker Interactions. Do employees question freely? (Confidence in reason/questioning), how prevalent is fair-minded thinking over selfish, egocentric, thinking? (We cannot manage what we are not aware of).



Section 3 - The Well-Tuned Critical Thinker. Critical thinkers set themselves apart from others because they always seek to find the truth or evidence over arguing one's position. This section provides insight and direction for finding the truth by asking good questions.

Application – Well-tuned critical thinkers understand thinking doesn't start and stop at the workplace. Three self-assessments are provided – 1) The Inner Rudder (The state of one's emotional intelligence), 2) Checklist for Reasoning – Intellectual Traits (What is the state of traits such as humility, and 3) Workplace Effectiveness – (Helps learners reflect on their work effectiveness).



Expectations

Upon completion of the workshop participants will begin to: 1) Demonstrate the components of learning at home and the workplace, 2) Exhibit greater maturity of intellectual traits, e.g., humility, courage, integrity, and confidence in reasoning, 3) Think more fair-mindedly by shedding egocentric tendencies, and 4. Demonstrate respectful engagement with others' ideas, behaviors, and beliefs.

Testimonials

- ✓ *Ideas are immediately applicable.*
- ✓ *Got me thinking! Thanks!*
- ✓ *Jim did a great job presenting very important information that should be shared at all levels of management. Enough information for a two day class.*
- ✓ *Very great topic and examples.*
- ✓ *Great course - answered questions, stimulated my curiosity and left me wanting more (in a good way!).*
- ✓ *I liked the combination of reading, videos, exercises alone and with the group. It helped me gain a better understanding through discussion and application. It left me with some very interesting questions and ideas I want to pursue in my daily work life and it stimulated my curiosity.*
- ✓ *Challenged me to think/act/care in a different way.*
- ✓ *Eye opening experience. Very challenging, thank you.*
- ✓ *"What did/did not work well for you at the workshop today?" All of it... Your presentation helped me recognize & understand why things happen the way they do. It will help me control & direct my thinking/interaction with others.*

Best to you,

