

Critical Thinking

Definition

- Critical thinking is that mode of thinking – about any subject, content, or problem – in which the thinker improves the quality of his/her thinking by skillfully taking charge of the structures inherent in thinking and imposing intellectual standards upon them.

Egocentric Thinking

- Comes from an unfortunate fact
 - Humans do not naturally consider the rights and needs of others, nor do we naturally appreciate the point of view of others or the limitations in our own point of view.
 - As humans we live with the unrealistic but confident sense that we have fundamentally figured out the way things actually are and that we have done this objectively.

Most common **standards** in Human Thinking

- Innate Egocentrism: “It’s true because I believe it”
- Innate Sociocentrism: “It’s true because we believe it.”
- Innate wish fulfillment: “It’s true because I want to believe it”
- Innate self-validation: “It’s true because I have always believed it.”
- Innate selfishness: “It’s true because it is in my selfish interest to believe it.”

Critical Thinking

The Result

- A well cultivated critical thinker:
 - Raises vital questions and problems, formulating them clearly and precisely.
 - Gathers and assesses relevant information, using abstract ideas to interpret it effectively.
 - Comes to well-reasoned conclusions and solutions, testing them against relevant criteria and standards.

Critical Thinking

- Thinks open mindedly within alternative systems of thought, recognizing and assessing, as need be, their assumptions, implications, and practical consequences: and..
- Communicates effectively with others in figuring out solutions to complex problems.

Critical Thinking

- Critical thinking is, in short, self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective thinking. It entails effective communication and problem solving abilities and a commitment to overcome our negative egocentrism and prejudices.