Welcome to PDD!

Critical Thinking

Beyond the Classroom

Prof. Kisha King
Prof. Nilo Marin
Prof. Trish Joyce
“A process of evaluating information by questioning and testing assumptions, accepting and rejecting arguments and/or perspectives, and applying reasoning to make informed decisions.”

~ Broward College’s definition of CT, adapted from the Foundation for Critical Thinking
Welcome to PDD!

QEP Critical Thinking
Learning Outcomes – Goal 1

- Explain questions, problems, and/or issues
- Analyze and interpret relevant information
- Evaluate information to determine potential conclusions
- Generate a well-reasoned conclusion

Learning Outcomes for engaged participants – YOU!
Today we will apply Critical Thinking to ordinary activities: 3-part Focus

- Use Critical Thinking day-to-day to envision details of your future – see it, believe it!
- Develop conscious consumerism – add muscle to your savvy consumer quotient
- Examine collective reliance on social media – apply Critical Thinking to “Like” it!
Critical Thinking Explained
Vision Boards
Vision Boards and Everyday Critical Thinking

- It’s a tool used to help clarify, concentrate and maintain focus on life goals
- Visualization
- Brings things to life
A Vision Board allows you to:

- Identify your vision
- Give your vision clarity
- Reinforce your daily affirmations
- Keep your attention on your intentions
- Allows you to consistently reflect on your goals
Thinking critically involves carefully exploring a situation or an issue

- Carefully explore the situation or subject at hand (e.g. ......)
- Involves thoughtful responses rather than whatever first comes to mind
- Identify something that you are planning to buy in the near future:
List some of the important questions that you should answer before making your purchase.

1. How much can I afford?
2. ____________________
3. ____________________
4. ____________________
Answer each question as best you can:

1. How much can I afford?

2. 

3. 

4. 

- Do the research necessary but be natural and spontaneous in developing the quality of being thoughtful.
- CT leads to more appropriate spontaneous reactions
- Thoughtless approach leads to mistaken or even disastrous reactions.
- E.g.: Preparing for a job interview vs. “playing it by ear.”
The “Googlization” of our lives...
Newsfeeds, mobile platforms, filters, social networks
Does #BigData Ever Sleep? #whopays

Facebook “Likes” for brands/orgs
Google
YouTube
Twitter
Instagram
Tumblr blog
Consumer $
Critical Thinking ?s for social media claims

- What is main **purpose** of the message?
- What or who is posting the claim?
- What type of evidence supports the opinion/argument?
- How valid or reliable is the evidence?
With social networks just a click away – what of Critical Thinking?

- What are the strengths and limitations of the evidence?
- Are there potential sources of bias?
- Are there possible alternative explanations?
- What is the most likely conclusion based on the evidence?
WHY do we give away our personal data FREE?

Big data captures our preferences/needs

- Search engine optimization (SEO)
- Banner ads
- Algorithms/analytics/metrics
- Demographic targets (that’s US!)
- Aggregated and anonymized data
QEP-It!

- Question your assumptions.
- Read a book with pages!
- Investigate or join a global literacy project or environmental justice mission.
- Ask what your presidential candidate choice is reading!
- Buy or donate a Newbury Award winning classic for a child.
- Join a mindful challenge, take a mindful walk, use a mindful APP, OR . . .