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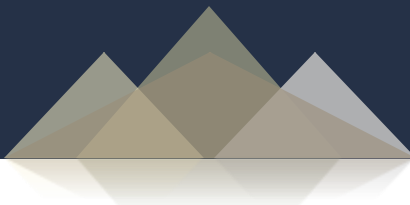
Critical Thinking for Everyday Leadership:

Making Better Decisions, Solving the Right Problems, and Empowering Your Team

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HRSA Funding Acknowledgement:

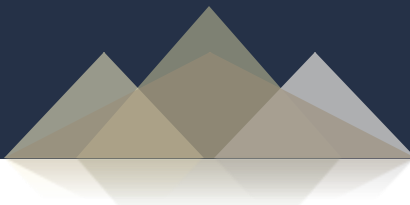
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Advanced Critical Thinking



The Leadership Perspective



Learning Objectives

1. Differentiate between symptoms and root causes when evaluating workplace challenges.
2. Apply practical critical-thinking frameworks to improve decision-making, prioritization, and problem-solving.
3. Utilize coaching techniques that develop employees' critical-thinking skills, increase ownership, and strengthen team performance.

Critical Thinking: The Leadership Tipping Point

Critical thinking is not simply the ability to analyze information.

*It is the ability to **see clearly, think intentionally, and act purposefully**, especially when situations are complex, ambiguous, or emotionally-charged.*



The leadership tipping point occurs when intense clarity is coupled with critical thinking.

A Rare & Distinct Combination of Intelligences

Exceptional leadership requires more than knowledge or expertise.

Critical thinking requires the ability to combine:

1. INTENSE CLARITY

Seeing what matters most, what is actually happening, and what needs to happen next.

2. CRITICAL THINKING

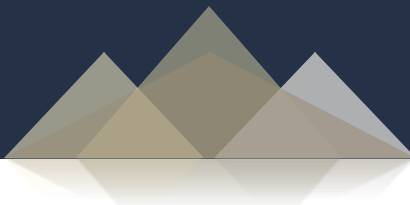
Examining information, assumptions, perspectives, and circumstances before determining what to believe or do.

3. INFLUENCE

Moving yourself and others toward the right action and desired result.



This combination creates leadership that is both discerning and decisive.



Chat In:

**What gets in your way of good
critical thinking?**

What Makes Critical Thinking Elusive?



Our brain kicks in so fast that we don't realize we are **interpreting**, rather than **observing**, our world.

Thinking Beyond the Noise

Mental acuity to distinguish:

1. What is *really* happening vs. what I *think* is happening
2. Fact vs. assumptions
3. Symptom vs. root cause
4. What matters vs. what is noisy urgency



Clarity of thought gives us something to think about.

The “Critical-Thinking Cookbook”

A Framework for Better Critical Thinking

1. What don't you know?
2. Surface the unintended consequences.
3. Think and act with the end in mind.
4. Invite others to test your logic.
5. Test assumptions using the "5 Why's Method".



Chat In: Which of these practices would you like to practice more of in the next 30 days?

Engineering Critical Thinking in Others

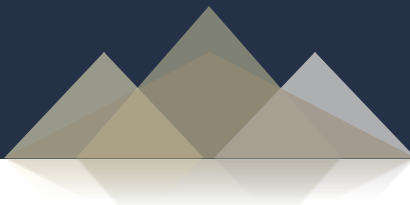
Leaders are not necessarily teaching people what to think...they are teaching people to think **more deeply**, **challenge assumptions**, and to **own their own decisions**.

Better Leadership Practices

1. Build an environment for safe dissent.
2. Push back on thinking and ask thought-provoking questions.
3. Resist the rescue reflex.



Don't be the answer machine. Be the thinking catalyst!



Critical thinking is:
The ability to **see clearly, think intentionally, and act purposefully**, especially when situations are complex, ambiguous, or emotionally-charged.

Chat In:

What has caused you to think more deeply about critical thinking today?