

I Think; Therefore, I Am!

Critical Thinkers . . .

. . . want to learn how to keep lines of communication open, and wish not to make the same communication mistakes

. . . embrace new challenges and are not complacent about learning new things. They are open to trouble-shooting, innovation, and growth

. . . do not accept information without thinking critically about it first, no matter how traditional, well-known, or well-established it is

. . . embrace change and challenge. They try to keep their ideas relevant to their experiences, knowledge, and present

. . . do not make uninformed choices or decisions

. . . value organization, focus, and problem-solving

. . . are tolerant of views that differ from their own while being aware of their own biases. They can empathize with other perspectives

. . . apply reason and evidence to thinking, are alert to problematic situations, and try to anticipate consequences

. . . put effort into critically filtering information around them to see and understand assumptions being made

. . . are aware of stereotypes about people and do not make judgments based on what their peers think, only on what they know to be true (or untrue) after careful thinking

. . . trust their own reasoning skills, but will look for other perspectives as sources of information if they are unsure (but question their sources carefully!)

. . . understand that things are not always “black and white”, and are comfortable with “gray areas”. They are aware that often there are multiple acceptable solutions to any one problem

. . . always look for the “best” knowledge or information



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