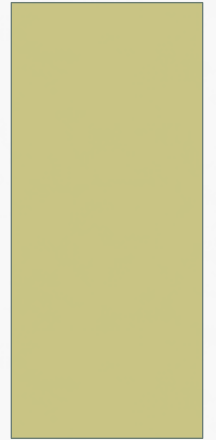


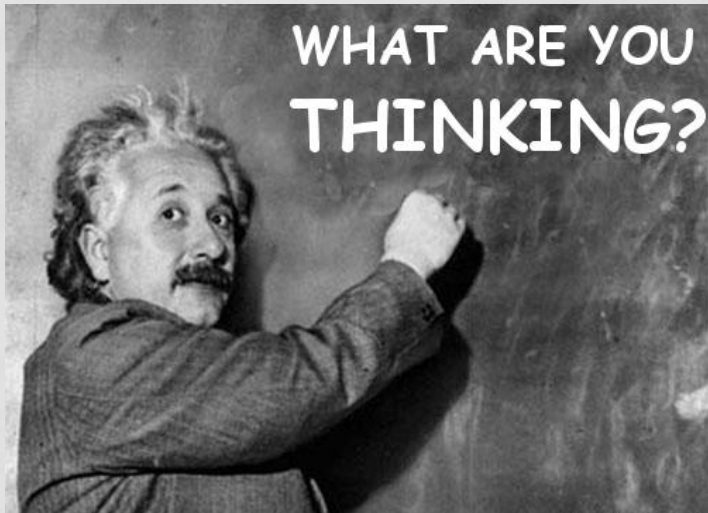
CRITICAL THINKING

SSC PRESENTATION



CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY

Pretend that you have been assigned the task of conducting a tour for aliens who are visiting earth and observing human life. You're riding along in a blimp, and you float over a professional baseball stadium. One of your aliens looks down and becomes very confused, so you tell him that there is a game going on.



Try to answer the following questions for him:

1. What is a game?
2. Why are there no female players?
3. Why do people get so passionate watching other people play games?
4. What is a team?
5. Why can't the people in the seats just go down on the field and join in?

WHAT IS CRITICAL THINKING?

- **Definition:** The process of independently analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information as a guide to behavior and beliefs.
- The American Philosophical Association has defined critical thinking as "the process of purposeful, self-regulatory judgment. The process gives reasoned consideration to evidence, contexts, conceptualizations, methods, and criteria" (1990). Critical thinking is sometimes broadly defined as "thinking about thinking."

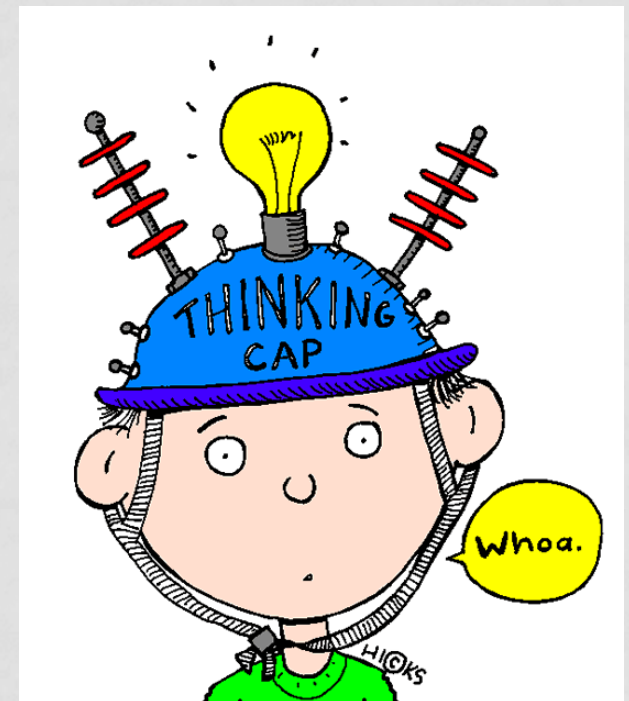
WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS?

- Clearness
- Accuracy
- Importance and Relevance
- Precision



CLEARNESS

- What does it mean?
 - Easily understood; readily apparent
- What is unclear thinking?
 - Obscure; ambiguous; confused
- Clearness is context dependent
 - Audience
 - Field or Discipline
 - Stage of thinking
- Overcoming Impediments
 - Saying what you mean
 - Being clear in your own mind
 - Anticipating what others will not understand



ACCURACY

- What does it mean?
 - Describe the way things actually are
- What it doesn't mean.
 - You aren't accurate because you believe it to be true
 - Accuracy isn't just about facts as facts can be distorted
- Accurate vs. "True"
 - *We hold these truths to be self evident...*
- Impediments to accuracy:
 - Inertia
 - Denial and wishful thinking
 - Generalizations





Fact and Opinion

- My mom is the best mom on earth.
- My dad is taller than your dad.
- My telephone number is difficult to memorize.
- The deepest part of the ocean is 35,813 feet deep.
- Dogs make better pets than turtles.
- Smoking is bad for your health.
- Eighty-five percent of all cases of lung cancer in the U.S. are caused by smoking.
- If you flatten and stretch out a Slinky toy it will be 87 feet long.
- Slinky toys are fun.
- One out of every hundred American citizens is color blind.
- Two out of ten American citizens are boring.

IMPORTANCE, RELEVANCE

- It is important if and only if it is pertinent to the discussion
- Can something be relevant but not important?
- Impediments
 - Losing sight of your purpose in order to win
 - Ignoring context
 - Missing the forest for the trees
 - Speaking just to be speaking
 - Emotional attachment, feeling threatened

PRECISION

- Specific and detailed as needed
 - Not beating around the bush
- Precision in context
 - Clearness
 - Purpose
- Impediments
 - Overlook the importance of precision
 - Takes work to be very specific on an issue
 - Difficult to see trees for forest

ACTIVITY

- Culture, many argue, is the adhesive binding together of the world's diverse social fabric. A cursory read of the daily newspaper, however, raises questions as to whether the world is literally coming unglued since the frequency and the intensity of cultural conflict seems pervasive and ever-increasing. With the recent rise of global communication systems (satellite TV, movies, video, etc.) stereotypic Western culture is spreading at a rapid pace. While this is willingly accepted by many throughout the world, other groups and countries resist this new form of cultural imperialism through protests, censorship and restrictions on film, TV, and music.