

AN ELEMENTARY GUIDE TO CRITICAL THINKING



Holmes to investigate murders.

The most common mistake that people make when they are asked to think critically is that they do not question the assumptions that underlie the problem. They simply accept the problem as it is presented and then try to solve it. This is not critical thinking. Critical thinking is the ability to question assumptions and to seek out evidence that challenges the prevailing wisdom.

It is important to note that critical thinking is not a one-time event. It is a continuous process that requires you to constantly question and evaluate the information that you receive. This is why critical thinking is so important in the workplace. People who score highly in critical-thinking assessments are also rated by their managers as having:

What Is Critical Thinking?

Critical Thinking is the objective, evidence-based analysis of an idea or theory.

It requires you to question assumptions and seek opinions that challenge the prevailing wisdom.

Why Does It Matter?

Collecting, analyzing and evaluating information is becoming increasingly important in the workplace.

People who score highly in critical-thinking assessments are also rated by their managers as having:

- good problem-solving skills
- creativity
- strong decision-making skills
- good overall performance¹

See the full infographic by joining the Mind Tools Club.



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[1] Chartrand, J., Ishikawa, H. & Flander, S. (2013). 'Critical Thinking Means Business: Learn to Apply and Develop the NEW #1 Workplace Skill.' Available at: <https://us.talentlens.com/content/dam/school/global/TalentLens/us/whitepapers/critical-thinking-means-business.pdf> [Accessed December 7, 2021.]