Critical Thinking Skills

ASSIST TO WORK
Horry-Georgetown Technical College
Critical thinking is a type of reasonable, reflective thinking that is aimed at deciding what to believe or what to do.
Characteristics of Critical Thinkers

- A critical thinker usually has the skills to consider all possible options and solve a problem.
- The critical thinker remains calm and knows when he/she is right.
- Critical thinkers consider all options before they act.
- A critical thinker can separate a rational thought from an emotional response.
- A good critical thinker knows how to separate facts from opinions, how to examine an issue from all sides, how to make rational inferences and how to withhold personal judgment or biases.
Critical Thinking Skills in the Workplace

- Critical thinking skills lead to effective communications and the ability to solve problems efficiently. For example, employees in customer service occupations use critical thinking skills when they engage in conflict resolution with customers.

- Critical thinking skills create a team environment by ignoring personal biases and focusing on what’s best for the company. Public relations, sales and marketing employees utilize critical thinking skills in making decisions about the public’s perception of their company’s products and services.
Employees may use critical thinking skills for self-improvement and personal success to evaluate strengths and weaknesses in order to identify areas where additional training is needed.

Employees may use critical thinking skills to manage conflict with co-workers or supervisors.
Practice Your Critical Thinking Skills

Ben has been out of work for 6 months. Then in the same week, he is offered jobs by two different engineering companies, the Thompson Corporation and Scott Brothers. They are offering the same hourly rate, but the Thompson Corporation is offering a better benefits program, while the Scott Brothers is located much closer to Ben’s home. What should Ben do?
Steps in Using Your Critical Thinking Skills

- List the different issues Ben should consider in making this difficult decision.

- Make a decision for Ben and explain why you think that it’s the best decision for him.
Finally, Critical Thinkers Believe in the Power of Their Minds

“I can figure out anything that I need to figure out.”