

**Critical Thinking Training
for
Problem Solving, Decision Making
and Creativity**

Open Enrollment in Denver

*Not just another training expense,
but an investment in raising the overall performance
and leadership of an individual and organization.*

Critical Thinking Workshops

CPE Certified

Critical Thinking

For Problem Solving, Decision Making and Creativity

A One Day Interactive Workshop – Space is limited to 15 attendees

Critical Thinking is an impartial method of analyzing and looking at problems, decisions, and goals. This results in faster decisions, more creative and innovative solutions, and higher quality results.

Our highly interactive workshops train the attendees in a framework for critical thinking and numerous techniques to apply critical thinking to real world problems and decisions.

The Takeaway

Critical Thinking ... A process that lets your brain do a little bit more for you as you make decisions, solve problems, make plans, and execute. Critical thinking has an immediate positive impact for solving current problems, and has significant long term benefits with business issues, goals, and strategies. Imagine the benefits when people are “Thinking” at a new level.

HeadScratchers Critical Thinking Workshops trains people to effectively apply critical thinking techniques to their everyday business issues. This results in higher quality problem solving and decision making – more innovation, faster decisions, opportunity recognition, mistake avoidance, higher productivity, and more.

HeadScratchers helps you say “Yes” to the following questions:

- Does your staff think Critically and Creatively?
- Do your managers lead people in “Thinking” as well as “Doing”?
- Is “Thinking Smarter” just a phrase, or do your employees know how to do this?

What is the benefit of a Critical Thinking workshop?

Attendees learn Pragmatic Critical Thinking Techniques resulting in:

- Faster and higher quality decisions that are more likely to be the correct ones
- Superior solutions to problems, goals, and strategies
- Better understanding of the dynamics between different aspects of a business or project
- Innovative ideas and solutions
- Higher productivity
- Better prepared to tackle difficult problems and make decisions on a daily basis

Examples of where these skills can be applied include:

- Improved development processes and quality
- General problem solving and decision making
- New product ideas and creation
- Short and long term business strategies
- Crisis management
- Improved operational efficiency
- Revenue generation and cost reduction strategies
- Customer care improvement



Not your average Class or Seminar !

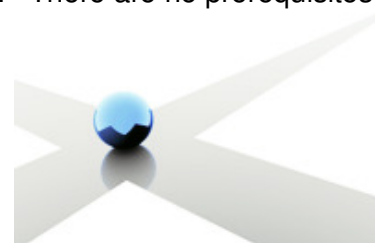
Unlike most classes that are taught in “academia” style and content, our workshop is about applying critical thinking tools and techniques in the real business world on your real business problems. Tools and Techniques are taught, and then practiced in class, on the problems you bring. Then when you return to the workplace, you already know how to apply what you just learned.

Who should attend?

If you manage other people or have significant economic or business decision making responsibility this course is for you. This includes senior level individuals, managers and directors, small and medium business owners, and leaders and senior individual contributors. There are no prerequisites to the course.

Delivery Method:

Group-Live – Denver, Colorado



We contact you before the Workshop.

While HeadScratchers has developed a model for Critical Thinking, we believe that learning the concepts of critical thinking should be adapted to a specific area of focus. Because of this, we send out a brief questionnaire so that we can obtain a better understanding of your specific objectives and challenges.

We limit the workshop to 15 participants.

The workshop is highly interactive with group discussions and breakouts. To have an effective learning experience it's vital that everything be heard. Most importantly, because the attendees might all be from different companies and industries, we keep the workshop to a manageable size so all attendees gain the benefit of the exercises using their own business issues.

Workshop Details:

Course: Critical Thinking

Program Level: Basic & Intermediate

(1 day / 8 CPE Credits)

Overview: The One Day workshop provides attendees with a good working knowledge of Critical Thinking Tools and Techniques; practice sessions with these tools on real business issues, and planning on how to use them in the future. The templates, called Thinksheets, in this workshop are used primarily as a teaching aid to guide future, out of class use.

Learning Objectives: After completing this course, you will be able to:

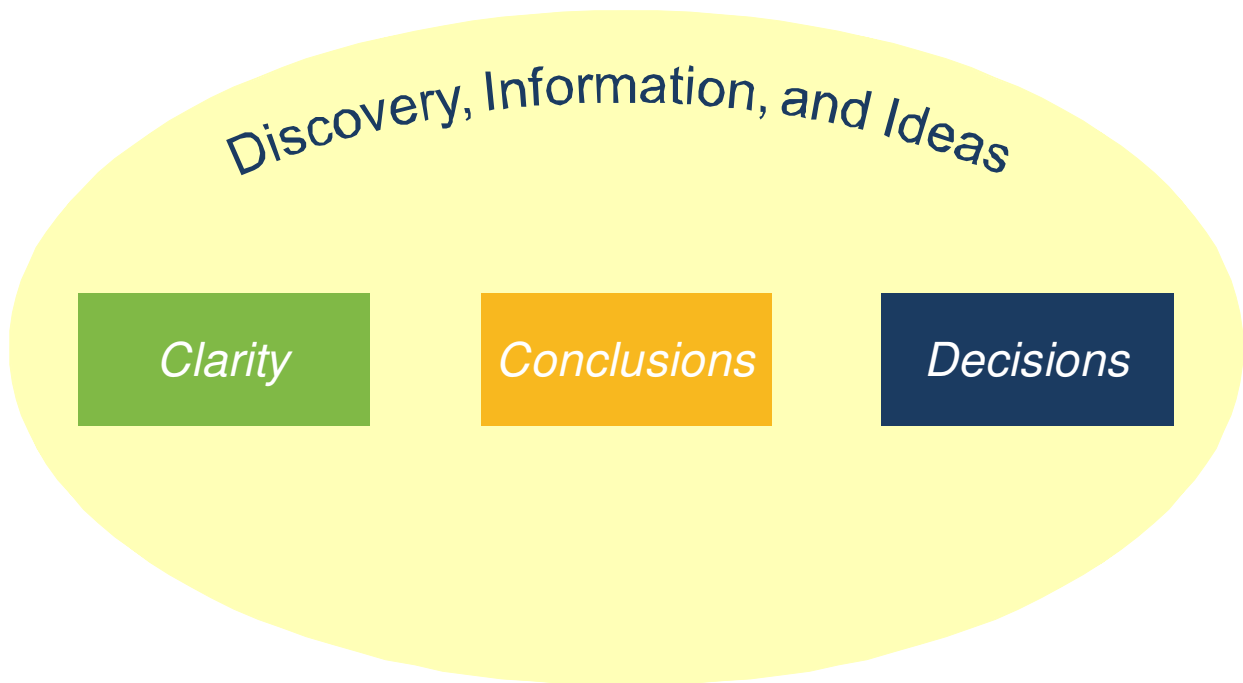
- Apply the 3 component Critical Thinking Process to Problem Solving and Decision Making.
- Apply critical thinking to Get Clear on a Problem or Decision aided with the Clarity Thinksheets
- Use the Conclusion Thinksheets to guide and document your thinking for Conclusions.
- Use the Decision Thinksheets to guide and document your thinking for Decisions.
- Implement your next step plan (created in the workshop) and report how your thinking has changed.

Sample Agenda:

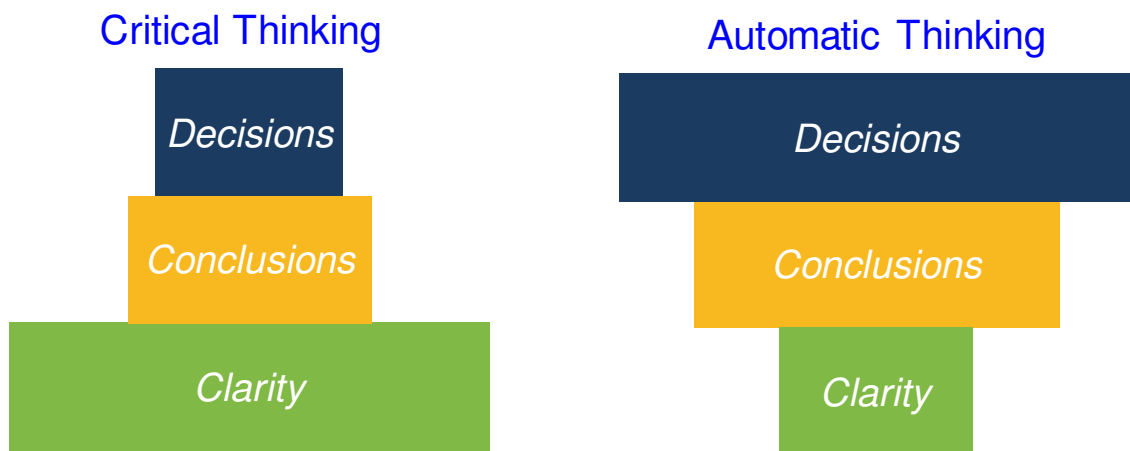
- Introductions and Review of Objectives
- Understanding “Critical Thinking” and the difference from just “Thinking”
- Distinguishing “Automatic” Thinking from “Manual” Thinking
- Understanding the benefits of Critical Thinking
- Understanding the concepts and the techniques to “Get Clear” on a problem to solve or decision to make. **(w/exercises)**
- How to use Critical Thinking in teams.
Attendees practice the role of “coach” and “problem solver” throughout the workshop.
- Applying Inductive, Deductive and Abductive thinking. **(w/exercises)**
- Understanding how assumptions, experiences, beliefs, and observations affect your thinking **(w/exercises)**
- Why people come to different conclusions and how to manage it.
- Understanding what Intuition really is.
- How to use the Conclusion Thinksheets **(w/exercises)**
- Learn the tools of Socratic Questioning; Why, So What, etc. **(w/exercises)**
- How to create and work with the heuristic equation of a process. **(w/exercises)**
- Decision Tool – How decisions are made and Thinksheets to guide that process **(w/exercises)**
- Learning additional tools for Business Critical Thinking;
 - Anticipatory Thinking – When to look ahead
 - Innovation – Understand the four components needed to innovate **(w/exercises)**
 - Thinking outside the box – What this is and alternative ways to accomplish this **(w/exercises)**
- Building your own Critical Thinking Template
- How to Lead other people to Think
- Next Steps and Action Plans



We present a simple framework for Critical Thinking



We contrast your everyday automatic thinking with Critical Thinking.



Stronger foundation for decisions

More time on getting clear and less time needed for decisions

Weaker foundation for decisions

Less time getting clear and more time needed for decisions

We train the attendees in the use of various techniques for Getting Clear, Reaching Conclusions and Making Decisions

Tools & Techniques

Empty Bucket
Inspection
Need
Why? So What?
What's Next?
Socratic Questioning
Listening to Answers
Broader-Subordinate
The Variables
Vision of the Future

Facts
Observations
Experiences
Beliefs
Assumptions

Innovation and
Creativity

Need

Criteria



Clarity



Conclusions



Decisions

This Results in ...

Focus
Everyone Aligned
Time and Money
spent
on the right problem
People working on
the right problem or
decision

Clarity

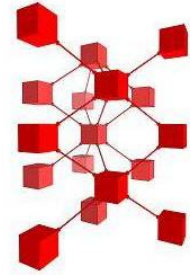
Thoughtful,
Defendable and Clear
Conclusions

New ideas

Solid Conclusions

Successful Decisions
Less iterations and
redo's
Alignment

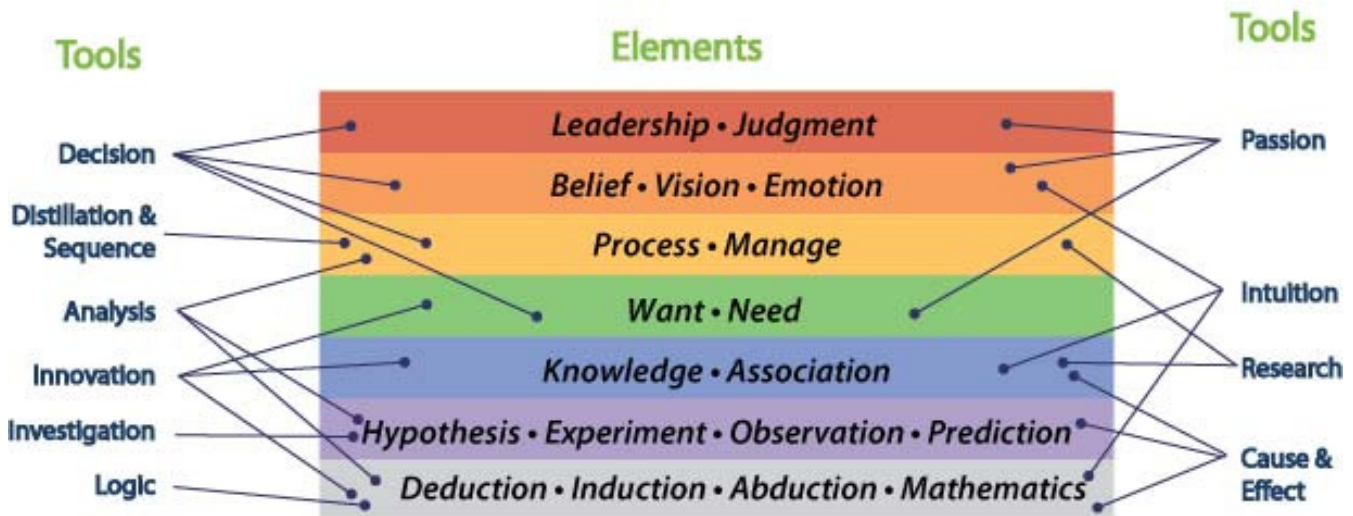
Faster and Quality
Decision Making



The Model

While we do not train attendees in the specifics of the model, below is an overview of the “elements” and “tools” used in thinking. Building on this foundation, we present numerous successful “techniques” for problem solving. The attendees practice these newly learned techniques using their current business challenges.

Tools of Critical Thinking are a combination of elements



You can read more about the model and critical thinking techniques on our website at www.headscratchers.com

The tools are combined with the framework into Techniques (see samples below)

Getting Clear	Clarity of problem, goal and decision is the start and most important step in Critical Thinking
Reaching Conclusions	The role that Inductive reasoning plays in reaching a conclusion: Facts + Assumptions + Beliefs + Experiences + Observations yields Conclusions
Creativity and Innovation	Need, Knowledge, Association, and Abductive Reasoning
Serial vs. Anticipatory Thinking	Knowing the difference and when to use them can lower costs, increase speed and reduce re-work
Decision Making	Need and Criteria are the ingredients behind Decisions. Both have to be present for quality decisions
Asking “Why” and “So What?”	“Why?” is a tool for discover. “So What?” gets people thinking about what data they are collecting and what it means
Listening to Answers	Asking the right questions is important and so is listening to the answer
Triangular Thinking	A way to find a solution with indirect measurements and predictions
The Definition of Done	Thinking through to “Done”
The Numbers Talk	Analyzing Data
What is the Equation?	Understanding the variables that go into a problem or decision
Hypothesis	Predicting an outcome based on an understanding
Intuition	What this really is and how to use it
Thinking “Outside the box”	In order to think “outside the box” you have to know what defines the box in the first place



Preparation for the Workshops:

Attendees receive a two page questionnaire about three weeks before the workshop with questions about their responsibilities and the scope of the problems they resolve, and decisions they make. The questionnaire takes about 15 minutes to complete.

CPE Credits:

Critical Thinking (One Day) – 8 CPE Credits

How to Register - For open enrollment workshops:

Please Visit http://www.headscratchers.com/Open_Enrollment_Workshops.html for the latest schedules and registration information.

Cost: Critical Thinking (One Day) \$495 per attendee. (\$395 Early Bird Discount). Consider an on-site workshop if you have 5 or more people interested.

Refunds:

\$15 cancellation fee if cancelled prior to 21 days before Workshop. 75% refund if cancelled between 21 and 10 days before workshop.

50% refund if cancelled within 10 days before of workshop.

If you have 10 or more people interested in a workshop, please contact us about our on-site workshops.

Contact Information:

For more information about the workshops or information regarding refunds, complaints or program cancellation policies, please contact us at 720-493-8567.



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