Critical Thinking

Module 2 Homework

**Self-reflection**

I don’t see much of myself in the person I described. As I read through my post, I could, however, focus in on the word “hypocritical.” I can definitely see how I act hypocritically. I often know I’m justifying some of my actions that run counter to my purported beliefs and values. For example, I say I care deeply about the environment. I read a lot about the role humans play in the destruction of our planet, I follow many sites of conservation, I give money and voice to local, national, and international groups working to preserve our resources. I garden organically, shop for organically grown foods, eat less meat, etc...However, I am not always willing to change some of my actions/choices because of my desire for comfort, material wants, or entertainment. I know the harm I’m doing, yet still choosing to do it to satisfy my own selfish wants.

**Groups**

USA –

We are the best country, work hard and I will be rewarded, our society is more advanced than all others

We are made to think we are the best – hands down. However, you can easily look around the world to find other countries doing certain things ‘better’. Also, the rubric for ‘best’ is subjective.

Many people work very hard and can’t get ahead. When they reach out for help, others claim they are lazy and stealing the taxes/money of others.

More advanced is not necessarily good. We are destroying the environment. We have created a culture of greed.

The Evergreen State College –

There are alternate perspectives on almost everything. The country is founded on inequities

If believe in the dominate perspective, you are not accepted.

My family –

Service is a purpose to life. Cleanliness is next to godliness

Service to others without considering the burden on yourself is unhealthy.

Sterile environment may lead to children developing allergies. Dirt, being outdoors, are healthy for most people. Cleaning products are often filled with toxins.

The family, college, and country beliefs I identified are definitely at odds with one another. There are few blanket/generalized statements or beliefs that can cover every situation, because situations are much more nuanced.

Governmental claims are often rally cries, filled with bravado and propaganda to keep society intact. I do think that 240 years ago, our governmental style was strikingly progressive and humanistic. Today, it seems like we are at a crossroads – looking to turn toward oligarchy, dictatorship, or?

Colleges often serve the purpose of opening our eyes (particularly the eyes of young adults just out of high school) to diverse perspectives and dispelling some of the misunderstandings learned in K-12. Colleges play a vital role in our country to challenge status quo. We are fortunate our system of government generally allows colleges to act as one of the areas of checks and balances, so to speak.

I grew up in a tight, secure family. My parents, although born in 1930 in rural areas of the US, were quite liberal minded and allowed my sister and me to be naturally who we wanted to be. Although I live quite differently from how my mother might have wished me to live, I feel quite free to be me. I do have the album Free to Be, You and Me, after all. My parents are (were) role models, and I do reflect on them, the choices they made, the beliefs they followed, on a daily basis. When I make decisions that are perhaps counter to what they would have made, I do consider those decisions more carefully.