Katherine Darius

Module 1

What is critical thinking?

Critical thinking is a structured and consistent approach to thinking which enables open-minded and fair-minded ideation. This approach reduces the propensity for bias and prejudice by applying thought framework flow based on the following fundamentals: purpose, questioning, information, concepts, interpretations, assumptions, implications, and point of view. Applying critical thinking on a consistent basis erodes the thinkers’ preconceived notions and develops critical intellectual traits – which helps us to build stronger relationships and make informed decisions.

How is the conception of critical thinking presented here different from conceptions of critical thinking that I have previously encountered?

Early exposure to concepts of critical thinking stems from interactions with consultants. Typically, consultants use problem-solving frameworks to navigate solutioning. However, I was unable to gain insights into the foundation of these frameworks until now.

Write briefly about how you can begin to apply this module’s content to your daily life.

As an executive recruiter, I plan to start with applying two of the structures: purpose and questioning, with the intent to understand the perspectives of the candidates and clients. Additionally, my family is navigating challenges due to loss and sensitivities are high. I will work to bring the fairmindedness approach into my conversations and solutioning.

Write a little about yourself: your name, title, school or professional affiliation, your motivation for taking this course, and what you hope to learn in it. We want to be on a first-name basis throughout the course.

It is a pleasure to join this group. I’m Katherine, a course latecomer, and a follower of this organization for over 5 years. I’m an executive recruiter and previously worked at the University of Chicago where the benefits of critical thinking were apparent. I am aware of my current limitations due to a lack of structure and consistency in my thinking and am eager to invest in my mind with a focus on growth of ability.