Module 1 Assignment.

I thought I would start this post by answering **part d** of the assignment first.

My name is Linda Cavanaugh. I am a Nursing Practice Educator (think Nursing Instructor) at Cape Breton University in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

My motivation for taking this course is quite simply to become more critical in my thinking. I hope that this course will help me to realistically assess where I currently am in my ability to think critically and then offer me the tools to move closer to where I want to be in my ability to think critically.

**Part a** “what is critical thinking” response:

Based on the assigned readings and videos, I would say that critical thinking is the intentional act of thinking about your thinking, specifically what is driving the way I think the way I do. What assumptions, perspectives, beliefs, etc. drive my thinking but more importantly where do those assumptions, perspectives, beliefs, etc. originate? Critical thinking is the intentional act of questioning the drivers of my thinking by incorporating specific attributes (intellectual virtues) and abilities (applying the intellectual standards and elements of reasoning) that will hopefully challenge origins of thought that are not well supported by appropriate information. And all of this is done with the purpose of becoming a fair-minded critical thinker.

**Part b** “How is the conception of critical thinking presented here different from conceptions of critical thinking that I have previously encountered?” response:

The conception of critical thinking presented here is more robust and more clearly defined than how I have seen it presented before. I will say that a lot of the ideas here are very familiar and similar to how I have seen them presented in the literature around critical reflection and transformative learning.

**Part c** “how I can begin to apply this module’s content to my daily life” response.

I really appreciate that the model of critical thinking presented here identifies clear attributes and abilities that I can develop individually that will then contribute to my overall ability to critically think. For example, I could choose one intellectual virtue at a time and develop a deeper understanding of that virtue and then intentionally practice that virtue.