Module 5 – Strong sense and weak sense thinking

Question 1

I understand strong sense (ethical) critical thinking to mean using the tools of critical thinking to think, analyze, and assess. The elements of reasoning, intellectual standards, and intellectual virtues are to be utilized. Recognizing my viewpoints and the biases that may come with them, and how they might hinder my ability to clearly assess the issue or problem at hand is something that should be considered. Respecting others relevant viewpoints is also important. Taking into consideration one’s own egocentric and sociocentric tendencies is necessary to elicit a sense of fairmindedness in the pursuit of strong sense critical thinking.

Question 2

I understand weak sense (unethical) critical thinking to mean is using what critical thinking skills that one has in a way that is unethical and self-serving. It appears that this orientation might be compared to that of the end justifying the means. Ways of thinking and using that thinking can be intentionally deceptive. Fairmindedness does not usually come into play other than using the knowledge of what could be fairmindedness to achieve one’s own goals, regardless of the lack of integrity used to achieve those goals. Manipulation of others is a key component of this approach and continues down the path of operating from a position that lacks integrity. Empathy is not used in relation to points of view that they don’t agree with. Unfortunately, this approach is tainted and unethical.