**1. I understand strong sense critical thinking to mean...**

I understand strong sense critical thinking to mean thinkers who reason in a fair-minded way, and at very high levels of skills and values. To elaborate, strong sense critical thinkers evaluate and consider all available evidence even if it does not support their viewpoint (i.e. thinking at a higher level). Strong sense critical thinking also entails ethical thinking. That is, it involves thinking that is not exploiting or harming others (i.e. in a fair-minded way).

We could refine our understanding of strong sense critical thinking by understanding the traits that strong sense critical thinking require:

Intellectual humility, That is to understand the limit of our knowledge, to be aware of what we know and what we dont know.

Intellectual Courage, to consider and reason all ideas or viewpoints. That is to consider and reason ideas and viewpoints that might be considered extreme or unrealistic when taken at face value

Intellectual Empathy, to understand another viewpoint by putting yourself in the other person's position. That is to see the world as it actually is, rather than as you imagine it.

Intellectual Integrity, Holding yourself to the same standards as you hold others to. i.e. saying what you mean and meaning what you say.

Intellectual Perseverance, Not giving up in the face of complexity or problems. To have the perseverance to follow the evidence and reasoning

Confidence in reason, that mankind and higher interests are best served by individuals coming to their own rational conclusions.

Intellectual Autonomy- thinking for yourself without passively or blindly accepting the beliefs of others.

**2. I understand weak sense critical thinking to mean...**

I understand weak sense critical thinking to mean thinking that does not contain higher level skills and values and which is not fair-minded. That is, it relates to thinking that is biased. Examples of such bias include failing to consider alternative viewpoints and accepting statements without questioning (i.e. lower-level thinking). It also includes thinking which is not fair minded, for example winning arguments irrespective of evidence or exploiting or harming others to get required result (i.e. selfish thought)

**3. I see the following examples of strong-sense critical thinking in my thinking and actions...**

* When purchasing new equipment for my business, I will research different options and understand their benefits and limitations. I seek out both good and bad reviews and consider all information before making a decision.
* For decisions or activities for which I do not have sufficient knowledge, I will try to learn by reading from various sources. I try to understand differing points of view and theories before forming my own views and opinion.

**4. I can admit to the following examples of weak-sense critical thinking in my thought and actions....**

I often respond in a way as to defend my point of view instead of reasoning through evidence. This is more true for complex reasoning, where the evidence may not be available or the reasoning relies significantly on judgement. For example in reordering products for resale, I am quick to guess that we will sell more than we did last time and therefore order more without looking at the data. Relevant data such as actual sales in the past and competitor sales are overridden because of my judgement or gut instinct. It seems I understate negative effects and overstate positive effects.

**5. I can improve my thinking and my behavior in the following ways, based on this analysis...**

By constantly reminding myself of and applying the elements of reasoning and Intellectual Standards.

By stepping back from reasoning and being critical – looking at whether I am using strong sense critical thinking and if not, adapting and pivoting my thoughts so as to remain on the right track.