**Critical Thinking**

*Analyzing and evaluating one’s thinking, always with the goal of improving it.

Includes:

- Looking for assumptions
- Figuring out how to check these assumptions (and doing so in multiple ways)
- Reviewing ideas and actions from multiple points of view
- Understanding the implications and consequences of your thought

What critical thinking is NOT:

- Inherently negative
- “Liberal” thought
- All about cognition
- Not important for everyday life

Assumptions:

- *Casual assumptions*
  
  If I engage in A, then B is supposed to happen (cause and effect) How the relationship works.

- *Prescriptive assumptions*
  
  Making assumptions about how things should be (ex. Social roles) or look like (men should be athletic)

- *Paradigmatic assumptions*
  
  How the world works. Often, we aren’t aware of them until they’re pointed out to us. When we examine these assumptions, they are the hardest assumptions to change. They can change how we think on a wide scale – “epiphany”
  
  Ex: Patriarchy – men hold the power and women are weaker.

- *Explicit assumptions*
  
  Overtly stated: “Immigrants are stealing American jobs.”

- *Implicit assumptions*
  
  Implied and not overtly stated or expressed. Reading between the lines.
  
  - All assumptions can be explicit or implicit but paradigmatic assumptions tend to be mostly implicit.
  - Assumptions are contextually appropriate/dependent, rarely right or wrong.
  - Assumptions might change based on the situation and validity.