THE ART OF

CRITICAL THINKING
WHAT IS A WORKSHOP?

The Hunger Games (2012)
TAKE 3 MINUTES AND WRITE DOWN:

• Your definition of critical thinking

• A situation in which you thought through something critically

• A situation in which you did not think through something critically
DEFINING CRITICAL THINKING

kritikos (discerning judgment) & criterion (standards)

Critical thinking
= the ability to discern judgment based on standards.

“Critical thinking is reasonable, reflective thinking that is focused on deciding what to believe or do.” Robert Ennis

“Critical thinking is skilful, responsible thinking that is conducive to good judgement because it is sensitive to context, relies on criteria, and is self-correcting.” Mathew Lipman

“Critical thinking is thinking about your thinking, while you’re thinking, in order to make your thinking better.” Richard Paul
Critical thinking is **reflective**

**Elements of Thought**
- **Point of View**
  - frame of reference, perspective, orientation
- **Purpose**
  - goal, objective
- **Question at issue**
  - problem, issue
- **Information**
  - data, facts, observations, experiences
- **Interpretation and Inference**
  - conclusions, solutions
- **Concepts**
  - theories, definitions, axioms, laws, principles, models
- **Assumptions**
  - presupposition, taking for granted

DEFINING CRITICAL THINKING

Critical thinking involves standards

SCALP
Federal Reserve Bank of
DALLAS

3 PARTS OF CRITICAL THINKING

analytic

creative
evaluative
EXERCISE 1 - INSTRUCTION

• In groups of 8

• Think critically about the video and analyse the reasoning of the speaker using the 8 elements of thought and the 9 standards of reasoning.

• Use those big sheets of paper to represent your process of critical deconstruction

• Be back in 20 minutes
SOCRATIC QUESTIONING

I AM THE CRITICAL SPECTATOR

The Death of Socrates by Jacques-Louis David (1787)
DEFINING THE
SOCRATIC METHOD

• A discussion led by a person who does nothing but ask questions, where each questions is based upon the response given to the prior question.

• A distinctive method of thought to explore the ramifications of certain opinions and to open new realms of self-knowledge.

• Systematic, deep and disciplined

PURPOSE: expose the logic of someone’s thought
THE SOCRATIC METHOD IN 5 STEPS

Step 1: Formulate a **Statement**

Step 2: Clarify by asking a couple of **Why**

Step 3: Examine it and try to find **Exceptions**

Step 4: **Nuance** (modify) the initial statement

Step 5: **Challenge** the new statement

Use the **8 elements** to analyse and the **9 criteria** to evaluate
EXERCISE 2 - INSTRUCTIONS

• In groups of 4

• Select a **statement** for inquiry, and **socratise** it.

• 1 of you plays Socrates, 1 plays the explorer, the 2 others observe, evaluate and report.

• Follow Stringfellow Barr’s rules for productive dialogue

• Be back in **15 minutes**
“I don’t believe I have to be loyal to one side or the other, I’m simply asking questions.”
“Picture all experts as if they were mammals. Never be a spectator of unfairness or stupidity. Seek out argument and disputation for their own sake; the grave will supply plenty of time for silence.”

Christopher Hitchens