



## STRATEGIES PROMOTING CRITICAL THINKING

---

- **Anticipate questions others might ask (e.g. What will my supervisor want to know?).** This helps you identify a wider scope of questions that must be answered to gain relevant information.
- **Ask "What if" questions like, "What if something goes wrong?" or "What if we try...?"** This helps you be proactive and creative.
- **Look for flaws in your thinking. Ask questions like, "What's missing?", "Have I recognized my biases?" and "How could this be made better?"** This helps you evaluate your thinking and make improvements.
- **Ask someone else to look for flaws in your thinking.** You're usually too close to own work to be objective; others bring a fresh "eye" and may bring new ideas and perspectives.
- **Develop "good habits of inquiry"** (habits that aid in the search for the truth, like always keeping an open mind, verifying information, and taking enough time). These habits can make critical thinking more automatic.
- **Ask questions like "What difference does it make?"** For example, how will knowing the results of this diagnostic study change the plan (if it doesn't affect the plan, maybe you don't need to do it).
- **Develop interpersonal skills like conflict resolution and getting along with those who have different communication styles.** If you don't have good interpersonal skills you're unlikely to get the help or information you need to think critically.
- **Replace "I don't know" and "I'm not sure" with "I'll find out".** This demonstrates you have the ability to find answers and mobilizes you to locate resources.
- **Turn errors into learning opportunities.** We all make mistakes: They're stepping-stones to maturity and new ideas (if you aren't making mistakes, maybe you're not trying hard enough).
- **Raise the bar!** Expect more of yourself and others. Open your mind, invite creativity, and improve quality and value to consumers.

