

# steps for improving critical thinking

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## 1. Erase old tapes.

*Negatives can be redirected to be positives with a bit of patience, understanding, and genuine care and concern from one who truly knows themselves.*

- a. Phrases having served at one time, benefiting us, may no longer be of assistance.
- b. Like the basement of an old house, boxes need to be periodically checked. Excess clutter may be distracting and blocking the entering of new information.

## 2. Maintain an open and clear mind.

*"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist."—Indira Gandhi*

- a. Don't be quick to judge; for it will be the time when you judge too quickly that you will miss the essence of human nature in all of life's various forms.
- b. Allow there to always be sunshine in your day. Do not allow clouds in your mind to enhance your preconceived notions creating electrifying, dangerous thunderstorms.

## 3. Ask questions.

*No question is a dumb question when the light of clarification is ignited in the mind of the Asker.*

- a. Misinterpretations of information, not to mention meaning, can (and often do) occur in conversation.
- b. Be certain to make an attempt at adjusting your lenses to the Sender's lenses, so as to view the image within as similar a frame as possible.

#### 4. Consider the source.

*Have you ever noticed how childless individuals are the first to offer up parental advice? Just a thought. Only a thought.*

- a. When information is stated as factual, this should be supported and evidenced of having been well researched.

#### 5. Remember to filter.

*The goal in panning for gold is to search through heaps of dirt in hopes of finding a single piece of gold. The miner uses a filter for he/she wants not any excess debris; only the gold is valuable.*

- a. Not all information we hear on a daily basis is practical. Thus it is our duty to understand what is being said, comprehend what we are reading, and make sense of what we hear.

#### 6. To buy or not to buy?

*One may have the money to buy the world, but buying the world may not be a smart investment for one.*

- a. With the all-consuming epidemic having infected many homes, there is inevitably someone attempting to sell something. As informed consumers, we must decide what to buy and what not to buy for we need not buy everything marketed to us. Sometimes it is better to only purchase a portion of what is being offered. Be selective in your purchases.

