Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

Course Description:

Each person's ability to think critically and think well is critical to success, both personal and organizational. In fact, critical thinking is at the root of all that we do well. Unfortunately, thinking effectively is hard work. The mind – left on its own, can ignore logic, refuse to look at the facts, generate ludicrous ideas and be overwhelmed with emotion – just when quality thinking is needed the most. It is often just easier to rely upon past patterns and habits.

The course employ numerous methods to accomplish the objectives including: discussion using the Socratic method, demonstration, individual, team and class activities, role plays, self-evaluation, learning instruments, video, and short reading and writing assignments.

The result is students get the skills that they'll need. They will learn to ask the right questions, discover and mitigate personal bias, challenge assumptions and see others' viewpoints with clarity and to identify and eliminate those psychological and personal barriers that block full use of their thinking potential.

Course Objectives:

Upon the successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Identify problems and opportunities; formulate problem and objectives clearly and precisely
2. Draw upon a full repertoire of thinking skills, tools and techniques to do the right thinking at the right time.
3. Identify the skills necessary for critical thinking and provide a critical perspective to their thought process.
4. Develop an awareness of their own thinking processes and the impact of those processes on their behavior and on others.
5. Explain the difference between convergent and divergent thinking and the growing need for more effective divergence need
6. Skillfully use questioning techniques to gather and assess relevant information
7. Challenge assumptions: recognize and assess the existence of assumptions and point of view in themselves and others
8. Generate and evaluate alternatives
9. Recognize and assess the existence of assumptions and point of view in themselves and others
10. Evaluate conclusions and solutions against meaningful criteria, requirements, and constraints
11. Assess and mitigate the risks of planned actions
12. Work effectively with others to figure out solutions to complex problems
13. Develop a personal action plan to transfer workshop concepts to the workplace and continue self-development

Length:

2 Days